

STIMULUS DOLLARS TO WORK

FXR COLORADO'S FOOD SYSTEM

This issue brief and others are available at www.cofoodsystems.org

PURPOSE

Recently advanced federal and state COVID response plans include important investments to support food and agricultural businesses--industries that have been significantly impacted by COVID--as well as caters to those who have been increasingly struggling to access sufficient nutritious food for themselves and their families.

As new resources flow into Colorado, state agencies will need to develop rules and guidelines for the administration of those funds especially since many of these programs and resources are new to the Colorado agencies. The purpose of this Issue Brief is therefore to review the sources and uses of funds and provide recommendations to the state about how to most effectively administer and allocate resources to catalyze innovation and to positively and equitably impact Colorado's food system in the short and long-term.

ISSUE BRIEF SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

For the purposes of this Issue Brief we have excluded previously established state and federal spending that have not been directly impacted by stimulus dollars, as well as, programs focused on supporting restaurants. For a full baseline summary of Colorado's capture of state and federal resources over the past 5 years, please see COFSAC's Capturing Federal and State Dollars for Colorado's Food System Issue Brief.¹

For the purposes of this Issue Brief, we have also excluded federal programmatic waivers which have

created important and impactful flexibilities for many state administered programs, but are not directly related to additional financial resources.

It is important to note that some relevant federal and state legislation is still in development as are programmatic rules and guidelines at multiple federal and state agencies. As such, this Issue Brief should be considered as an accurate snapshot as of early May 2021. Readers may consider subscribing to the Federal Register², Colorado Department of Agriculture Colorado Proud Newsletter³, and/or CSU Food System Newsletter⁴ to get additional updates.

COLORADO CONTEXT

Over the past five years, Colorado has received approximately \$1.7B per year in public spending to support its food system. The overwhelming majority (94.1%) of those dollars came from federal sources. In 2020, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council released an issue brief summarizing COVID related spending highlighting that Colorado's food system received another \$768.6M from federal dollars and \$5M from state dollars. See Table 1 for more detail.

Despite the significant increases in public funding, funds still did not appear to meet the increased level of need in Colorado. For example, while public spending for Food Security & Hunger Relief during the COVID response





in 2020 reflected an increase of 47% over the prior 5-year baseline, the rate of food insecurity in Colorado increased by 267% (from about 10%⁵ to an estimated 38%⁶). Given the huge increase in need, the average amount of funding for food security & hunger relief per food insecure Coloradoan actually decreased 60% (from \$1,812 to \$723). See Table 2 for more detail.

Demand for grant support also far exceeded supply. For example, the Colorado COVID-19 Emergency Hunger Relief Fund that issues food security & hunger relief grants received nearly \$30M in requests but was only able to award \$5.8M. Similarly, the Colorado Farm & Food Systems Response Team's Respond & Rebuild Fund and the CDA Moving the Needle Grant Program received a combined \$12.4M in requests, but was only able to award \$2.3M in farm viability, supply chain, & farm-based economic development grants. Taken together, Colorado's food system had a funding gap of at least \$34.2M across 1,545 requests. See Table 3 for more information.

ANTICIPATED STIMULUS SOURCES

In addition to the stimulus funds reported above, the federal government has announced nearly \$5.7T in planned stimulus spending across the US. At least \$4.6B of federal and state stimulus spending will be allocated based on decisions by Colorado's Governor and state legislature. Taken together these funds represent the largest one-time reinvestment since the New Deal in 1933-1936. See Table 4.

FEDERAL STIMULUS PROGRAMS

The general purpose of federal stimulus funds is to accelerate the US recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession. Specifically, stimulus resources are coming from five primary spending packages: the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021; the American Rescue Plan Act 2021; the USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers; the pending American

Jobs Plan, and the pending American Families Plan. Each spending package builds on previous packages to extend/expand working programs and to add new programs based on emerging gaps. General details about each are explained in more detail below.

ACTIVE PROGRAMS

- Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021, approved on December 27, 2020, extends several provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act among other things. The 2,100+ page Act is made up of 32 divisions. Of these, provisions for food and agricultural related businesses appear in Division A (Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act) and Title VII Nutrition and Agriculture Relief.
- The USDA Pandemic for Producers Initiative, announced by Secretary Vilsack on March 24, 2021, utilizes funds from the CAA to reach a broader set of farmers/ranchers than in previous COVID-19 programs, with a specific focus on reaching underserved farmers/ranchers and communities and small and medium agricultural operations.
- American Rescue Plan Act 2021, signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, allocates \$1.9 trillion funds for vaccines, schools, and small businesses. The bill is targeted at addressing the nation's health and economic crises resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and contains an estimated \$18.4 B intended for eaters, farmers/ ranchers, and intermediaries related programs.

PENDING PROGRAMS

 On March 31, 2021, President Biden unveiled a new \$1.9 trillion American Jobs Plan. The proposal is focused on infrastructure, the care economy, climate and creating jobs. Previous US COVID-19 spending bills were focused on short-term





emergency response; the American Jobs Plan is designed to promote longer-term economic recovery and keep the US competitive while responding to the economic effects of the pandemic. The food and agricultural sectors will be impacted by a focus on infrastructure, improved agricultural resource management, and investment in and adoption of climate smart technologies.

 On April 28, 2021, President Biden unveiled a new \$1.9 trillion American Families Plan to mark his first 100-days in office. The plan would invest \$1.9 trillion in American youth and their families. The plan seeks to help families cover basic expenses including health care premiums and food.

STATE STIMULUS PROGRAMS

State stimulus resources are being allocated under two primary frameworks: Colorado Recovery Plan and the Build Back Stronger Colorado. Both frameworks are geared towards helping Colorado recover faster and build back stronger after the pandemic.

ACTIVE PROGRAMS

The Colorado Recovery Plan was released as a formal framework for \$700+ M state stimulus investments on March 10, 2021. The plan provides guidance for dozens of bills that will meet the five identified challenges: (a) strengthening small businesses, (b) revitalizing infrastructure, (c) supporting Colorado families, (d) investing in rural Colorado, and (e) developing the workforce. The plan will be financed by onetime dollars available as a result of improved economic projects for the FY 2020-2021 budget year. For example, bills include: SB21-2487 (Loan Program For Colorado Agriculture); SB21-2358 (Stimulus Funding Department Of Agriculture Efficiency Programs); HB21-12629 (Money Support Agricultural Events Organization); and SB21-203¹⁰ (Funding For Colorado Proud).

PENDING PROGRAMS

Colorado is expected to receive about \$3.9 B (preliminary estimates) for state directed one-time investments. Governor Polis and state legislators are soliciting feedback on how best these resources can be deployed through the Build Back Stronger Tour launched on March 22, 2021. Overall the intent of these funds is to put people back to work, help those in need, and build a stronger, more resilient Colorado. Adding nearly \$4 B into the state's budget amounts to almost 30 percent of prior year fiscal year General Fund spending.

ANTICIPATED STIMULUS USES

While not all of the \$5.7T in planned stimulus spending will directly support Colorado, each of the funding sources outlined above could have a significant impact on the state's food systems.

For the purpose of this issue brief, stimulus uses are roughly broken down into three buckets:

1) funds that support farmers and ranchers (for example specialty crop programs, CFAP¹¹ Direct Payments, and increased VAPG¹² spending); 2) funds that support food intermediaries, like processors, manufacturers and wholesalers (for example, ag infrastructure grants, increased LAMP¹³, CFP¹⁴, and RFSP¹⁵ spending; and RAMP Up¹⁶); and 3) funds that support eaters (for example, P-EBT¹७, SNAP¹৪, Farmers to Family Food Boxes¹९, CSFP²⁰, WIC²¹). See Table 5.

FUNDS THAT SUPPORT FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Initial stimulus uses to support U.S. farmers/ranchers were directed at weathering losses in revenue resulting from the COVID pandemic either because of labor shortages or market/supply chain disruptions. The USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers program is a great example for that kind of funding. The second wave of stimulus funds went towards





addressing the historic and ongoing social and economic inequities in agricultural production as outlined in the American Rescue Plan and the Consolidated Appropriation Act. The third wave will be directed towards conservation, climate change mitigation, improved agricultural resource management, and investment in and adoption of climate smart technologies. These types of goals have been described in the American Jobs Plan but specific programs and allocations have yet to be attached. See Table 6.

As outlined in the Colorado Recovery Plan, the majority of farmers and ranchers' support funded by the State government is directed towards long term resilience through drought preparation and watershed restoration. There are also some funds available to continue marketing support for producers via the Colorado Proud Program. **See Table 7**.

For the many businesses that connect producers and eaters (referenced herein as Food Intermediaries), stimulus resources are intended to support entities that struggled during the pandemic and to create more resilient supply chains in the short and long-term. Similar to support for producers, the second wave of federal stimulus funds, as outlined in the American Recovery Plan, focuses on supporting socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

See Table 8.

The Colorado Recovery Plan also recognizes the importance of small businesses for the state's recovery. The state funds, therefore, go towards supporting businesses in rural areas, as well as businesses that did not qualify for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and women, minority and veteran-owned businesses. See Table 9.

Stimulus resources also support eaters primarily through food access program administration and improvement. Examples of programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Women

Infant and Children Program, and the National School Lunch Program. Resources are also being directed at improving and modernizing the customer interface with those services. **See Table 10**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Overall, as detailed in Table 5, there is still \$3.8 T at the federal level and \$3.9 B at the state level, yet to be allocated. At both the state and federal levels, efforts are underway to engage stakeholders to identify gaps and opportunities for the largest impact.

A good example of this opportunity at the federal level can be found in the first provision of the American Rescue Plan. In the "Food Supply Chain and Agriculture Pandemic Response" section, which makes \$3.6 B available to the Secretary of Agriculture, program level details were not assigned, but could include support:

- to purchase food and agricultural commodities;
- to purchase and distribute agricultural commodities (including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat) to individuals in need, including through delivery to nonprofit organizations and through restaurants and other food related entities as determined by the Secretary, that may receive, store, process, and distribute food items;
- to make grants and loans for small or midsized food processors or distributors, seafood processing facilities and processing vessels, farmers markets, producers, or other organizations to respond to COVID-19, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19; and
- to make loans and grants and provide other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency.





To make decision about these allocations, the Secretary of Agriculture is requesting comments on the provision between April 21 and May 21, 2021 with the hopes that stakeholders can help the USDA assess critical factors, risks, and strategies to support resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains²².

Similarly at the state level in March and April of 2021, CO Governor Polis, in collaboration with State Treasurer Young, and State House and Senate Leadership, convened a series of Build Back Better Colorado meetings to hear from Coloradans from across the state to inform the use of the unallocated \$3.9 B in state and federal stimulus funds²³. Calls for support for food systems and supply chain support from the agricultural and rural communities listening session included (See Table 11).

COFSAC also hosted an online, statewide community listening session on April 28, 2021, in partnership with CSU and the Colorado Food and Farm Response Team. Feedback from community stakeholders further highlighted that top priority beneficiaries of public funds should include rural communities, young and beginning farmers, lower-income households with a focus across the board on reaching Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and others who have been systematically and historically excluded from public support programs.

COFSAC's community listening session also highlighted several additional top priority uses of public funding which are summarized in **Table 12**.

BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO APPLICANTS

Based on COFSAC's community listening session and related stakeholder surveys, the current administrative processes for state and federal grants appear to create substantial barriers for many businesses and organizations. For example, 36% of survey respondents had never developed a grant,

but a surprising 27% had "started writing a grant but did not complete due to lack of time, resources or partners." Overall 68% of interested stakeholders had never been able to receive grant dollars. When asked how to improve the state and federal grant making process, there was a three-way tie for the most common responses (21% of respondents, each)

- Longer timelines between grant announcement and deadline (currently about 6-8 weeks)
- Different timelines for grant deadlines (offseason for farms and food businesses)
- Standardized templates to fill in for application (e.g. dropdowns) that quickly help assess eligibility

Participants in COFSAC's community listening session further highlighted opportunities to improve grant application processes, including:

- Simplifying applications (e.g. Blueprint to End Hunger's grant)
- Exploring a standard grant application across all state agencies (e.g. Colorado Common App)
- Coordinating timing and desired outcomes across multiple funding streams to help braid resources on behalf of communities rather than just assuming they will/can
- Introducing more flexible methods for applications - for example, consider a short letter of intent with clear criteria to determine eligibility early and save the time needed to complete the full application; or alternatively, to offer nonpaper, non-digital options like one-on-one or small group interviews and site visits to ensure that awards are not just dependent on someone's writing skills
- Offering a public resource to assist the application process including providing grant writing experts
- Quickly disbursing funding or at least providing clarity on when dollars will





become available – so organizations/businesses are not spending before grant dollars available

 Defining contracts and scopes of work directly from applications, with clear and consistent deliverables and timelines

Participants in COFSAC's community listening session also suggested opportunities to improve grant and project impact evaluation, including:

- Including qualitative aspects in addition to outputs to assess the full depth, the quality and the true impact of programs.
- Collecting information in part through success stories, narrative feedback, and in-person site visits where grantmakers and evaluators can build relationships and they can get to know the community.
- Working to avoid "over-surveying" impacted communities
- Understanding that in a rural places, program costs can be higher per unit because coordination can take more work and often things travel many more miles
- Setting projects goals and metrics with the experts working in the field
- Engaging peer evaluators within the same field and ideally local evaluators who understand the area
- Recommending that the grantmakers themselves hire the evaluators to best allow the organizations to focus on their programs
- Coordinating impact and reporting metrics so they match with other grants instead of becoming additional requirements
- Including measures around effective outreach, collaboration and communication among nonprofits, and other community organizations

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE FOR COLORADO

Substantial opportunities exist for Colorado's farmers/ranchers, food intermediaries and eaters over the coming months. The unallocated public spending (\$3.8 trillion at the federal level and \$3.9 B state level) could help provide important COVID relief, but equally important, could provide economic stimulus to help Colorado bounce forward from these unprecedented disruptions.

Taking advantage of this once in a generation opportunity will require that:

- State agencies and federal elected officials continue to push for and fully leverage available waivers to increase the states flexibility in administering critical programs
- State agencies and federal elected officials continue to advocate for making waivers permanent and introducing other permanent flexibilities, including working with groups like NASDA to push for more ag-focused block grants, like the specialty crops program, where each state can determine its own priorities and program
- Adequately increase staffing at state agencies to properly administer and monitor critical investments with an eye towards developing evaluation processes and tracking impact metrics to help shape future policy
- State agencies and elected officials commit
 to continuing standardized, open feedback
 processes, including listening sessions and open
 public comment periods (like what is being done
 by the USDA Farmers to Family Food Boxes,
 USDA Beginning Farmers, and CDA Colorado
 Proud program), and to integrating that feedback
 into forthcoming rule making efforts
- State agencies and elected officials structure programs to foster innovative approaches to problem solving





(vs."this is the way we always do things") and to pull private capital off the sidelines by putting in place new public-private partnership tools

- State agencies integrate the feedback from COFSAC's community listening session and related surveys with a specific focus on improving grant-making coordination across agencies by developing a common application; simplifying application complexity; publishing clear that application scoring rubrics; providing technical assistance support (e.g. webinar series for navigating opportunities and technical assistance for applying)
- State agencies update award prioritization criteria to explicitly and preferentially support rural communities, young and beginning farmers, lower-income households with a focus across the board on reaching Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and others who have been systematically and historically excluded from public support programs.
- State agencies align funding with multiple overlapping desired outcomes/impacts, including: farm/ranch viability; food supply chain resilience; community health and economic development, and ecosystem benefits.
- State leaders fully leverage the federal stimulus and build back better resources to make critical investments across Colorado food systems that have the potential to support farmers/ranchers, food intermediaries, and eaters for decades to come

To support these efforts COFSAC will continue to develop related Issue Briefs based on new legislation and to track specific federal and state program dollars that flow across Colorado's food system. As a reminder, this Issue Brief should be considered as an accurate snapshot as of early May 2021. Readers may consider subscribing to the Federal Register²⁴, Colorado Department of Agriculture Colorado Proud Newsletter²⁵, and/or CSU Food System Newsletter²⁶ to get additional updates.

CASE STUDY: SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION (WILL BE SIDEBAR IN FINAL DOCUMENT)

As an USDA OPPE 2501 grant applicant and grantee, the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition had a positive experience of how public grantmaking can best serve Colorado communities and food systems:

- Straightforward application
- No match required
- Easy reporting where grant administrators provides examples of what they want and are eager to answer questions and offer informal trainings
- Grant administrators host monthly grantee meetings that contain important grant requirement updates, other funding sources, updates from the program officers, and success stories from other grantees
- Direct, personal relationships with grant administrators
- Payments are in advance versus by reimbursements
- A very different kind of grantor/grantee relationship - one that is more trusting and collaborative
- The grant administrators really seem to advocate for us and really care about the work
- Limited bureaucracy makes the experience feel like working with partners

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Libby Christensen, Blake Angelo, and Dawn Thilmany. Putting Federal and State Dollars to Work for Colorado's Food System. Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council Issue Brief. TBD 2021







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APPENDIX: RESEARCH

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15ixJM2OHivzZXxb1kU9N--gj0UMAhgMdlz6fHKJAtlM/edit?usp=sharing

TABLES 1-12

Table 1: State and Federal Funding for Colorado's Food System³⁰

| | | Average Per Year (2015-2019) | COVID Stimulus (As of Aug 2020) | 2020 Stimulus as % of 5 yr Avg |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Colorado | \$44,274,157 | \$5,000,000 | + 11% |
| Food Security & Hunger Relief | Federal | \$1,038,301,739 | \$498,843,241 | + 48% |
| Farm Viability & Farm-based | Colorado | \$54,003,911 | \$ - | + 0% |
| Economic Development | Federal | \$540,365,601 | \$269,788,511 | + 50% |
| Colouredo Food Custom Total | Colorado | \$98,278,068 | \$5,000,000 | + 5% |
| Colorado Food System Total | Federal | \$1,578,667,340 | \$768,631,752 | + 49% |

Table 2: Food Security & Hunger Relief Spending per Food Insecure Person in Colorado

| | | 5-Year Baseine | 2020 | % Change |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Food Security & Hunger Relief Spending | Colorado+ Federal | \$ - | \$ - | 47% |
| | Rate | 10% ²⁷ | 38% ²⁸ | 267% |
| Food Insecurity in Colorado | Approx # ²⁹ | 597,579 | 2,194,011 | |
| Average Food Security & Hunger Relief Spending per Food Insecure Coloradoan | | \$1,812 | \$723 | - 60% |





Table 3: Estimated Unmet Need in Colorado

| | | Amount Requested | Amount Rewarded | Funding Gap |
|---|----------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Food Security & Hunger Relief ³¹ | Colorado | \$29,908,224 (n=1,699) | \$5,804,549 (n=603) | \$24,103,675 (N=1,096) |
| Farm Viability & Farm-based Economic Development ³² , ³³ | Colorado | \$12,449,926 (n=736) | \$2,300,012 (n=287) | \$10,149,914 (N=449) |
| Colorado Food System Total | Colorado | \$42,358,150 (n=2,435) | \$8,104,561 (n=890) | \$34,253,589 (N=1,545) |

Table 4: Anticipated Sources of Stimulus Dollars (as of May 2021)

| Program/Legislation | Source of Dollars | Maximum Dollars | Date Enacted | Intention |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 ³⁴ | Federal | \$900,000,000 | 12/27/2020 | Annual spending bill. Combined stimulus relief for the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States with a \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending bill for the 2021 federal fiscal year. Prevents a government shutdown. |
| American Rescue Plan Act 2021 ³⁵ | Federal | \$1,900,000,000,000 | 3/11/2021 | Speed up the US recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession. |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers ³⁶ | Federal | \$6,500,000,000 | 3/24/2021 | Focused on reaching underserved producers and communities and small and medium agricultural operations. |
| American Jobs Plan: Build Back Better ³⁷ | Federal | \$1,900,000,000,000 | TBD | Focused on "infrastructure" and addressing climate change. |
| American Families Plan | Federal | \$1,900,000,000,000 | TBD | Focused on helping families cover basic household expenses including food. |
| The Colorado Recovery Plan ³⁸ | Colorado | \$700,000,000 | TBD ³⁹ | Dollars from state general fund as revenues exceeded budgets. |
| Build Back Stronger Colorado ⁴⁰ | Federal (pass through) | \$3,900,000,000 | TBD | Maximize the social and economic impact of one-time funds from state and federal stimulus dollars. |
| | | \$5,708,100,000,000 | | |



Table 5: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support Colorado's Food System (as of May 2021)

| Use | State Dollars | Federal Dollars | Total Dollars |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Supporting Farmers/Ranchers | \$23,500,000 | \$17,363,400,000 | \$17,386,900,000 |
| Supporting Food Intermediaries | \$40,000,000 | \$ 3,160,000,000 | \$3,200,000,000 |
| Supporting Eaters | \$- | \$53,458,700,000 | \$53,458,700,000 |
| Supporting the Supply Chain | \$- | \$3,600,000,000 | \$3,600,000,00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$63,500,000 | \$77,582,100,000 | \$77,645,600,000 |
| Other | \$636,500,00 | \$1,829,817,900,000 | \$1,830,454,400,000 |
| Unallocated | \$3,900,000,000 | \$3,800,000,000,000 | \$3,803,900,000,000 |
| TOTAL | \$4,600,000,000 | \$5,707,400,000,000 | \$5,712,000,000,000 |



Table 6: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support US Farmers/Ranchers (as of May 2021)

| Source | Use | Total Dollars |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Federal: ARP | Federal Loan Repayment | \$4,000,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Support for Disadvantaged Producers | \$1,010,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | COVID Animal Monitoring and Surveillance | \$300,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Federal Inspection | \$100,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | Expand help and assistance to more farmers/ranchers | \$6,000,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | Eligible Crop Payments | \$4,500,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | Automatic Cattle Payments | \$1,100,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program | \$100,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Cotton through the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills | \$80,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Farmers Opportunities Training and Outreach Program through NIFA. | \$75,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service | \$20,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Stress Assistance Program through NIFA | \$28,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Value Added Producers Grant | \$15,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Ag Credit State Mediation Grants | \$6,900,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | FSA: grassroots source water protection program | \$6,500,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program | \$6,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | NIFA Veterans Farming and Ranching Grants | \$5,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Food Insecurity Grants | \$5,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Natural Resource Conservation Service Operations: Grants | \$3,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Rural Cooperative Development Grants | \$3,000,000 |



Table 7: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support Colorado Farmers/Ranchers (as of May 2021)

| Source | Use | Total Dollars |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| The Colorado Recovery Plan | Watershed Restoration Grant Program | \$17,500,000 |
| The Colorado Recovery Plan | Investments in Drought Response | \$3,500,000 |
| The Colorado Recovery Plan | Funding for Colorado Proud | \$2,500,000 |

Table 8: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support US Food Intermediaries (as of May 2021)

| Source | Use | Total Dollars |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Federal: ARP | Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Owned Small Business Credit | \$1,500,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Small Business Credit State Support | \$1,000,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Very Small Business Credit | \$500,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | New Funding to Existing Programs: Local Agricultural Marketing Program through AMS and Rural Development | \$100,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | RAMP UP Grants for improvements to meat and poultry facilities to allow for interstate shipment | \$60,000,000 |

Table 9: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support Colorado Food Intermediaries (as of May 2021)

| Source | Use | Total Dollars |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| The Colorado Recovery Plan | Investments in Ag Supply Chain | \$30,000,000 |
| The Colorado Recovery Plan | Energize Colorado Gap Fund | \$12,500,000 |





Table 10: Committed Uses of Stimulus Dollars to Support US Eaters (as of May 2021)

| Source | Use | Total Dollars |
|--|---|------------------|
| Federal: ARP | Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Federal | \$5,000,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State Program | \$2,300,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State Program Administration | \$1,135,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Women Infant and Children (WIC) Expansion | \$490,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | WIC Program Modernization | \$390,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Commodity Supplemental Food Program Federal | \$37,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Federal Online Program Administration | \$25,000,000 |
| Federal: ARP | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Federal Program Administration | \$15,000,000 |
| USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers | Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program through NIFA | \$75,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Commodity Assistance Program | \$426,700,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | The Emergency Food Assistance Program | \$400,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Federal Program Administration | \$100,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | National School Lunch Grants | \$30,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Commodity Supplemental Food Program Federal | \$13,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act | \$12,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Federal Online Program Administration | \$5,000,000 |
| Federal: 2021 CAA | Healthy food in underserved areas grant | \$5,000,000 |
| Federal: AFP | EBT Demonstrations | \$25,000,000,000 |
| Federal: AFP | Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) | \$17,000,000,000 |
| Federal: AFP | Healthy Foods Incentive Demonstration | \$1,000,000,000 |



Table 11: Policy ideas to support farmers/ranchers, food intermediaries, and eaters from Build Back Better Colorado

| Support for: | Policy ideas from Build Back Better Colorado included: | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Farmers and Ranchers | Adopting standardized statewide regulations for producers to sell directly to schools Increasing visibility and accessibility of Colorado Products | |
| Food Intermediaries | Providing technical assistance and capital investments for meat processing facilities Expanding capacity at custom exempt processors Supporting efforts for aggregators and distributors to facilitate sales between Colorado producers and markets, specifically schools | |
| Eaters | Supporting the Colorado Food Pantry Assistant Grant Program and other programs the support emergency food assistance Improving infrastructure for emergency food systems (warehouses, refrigeration, transportation needs, etc.) | |

Table 12: Policy ideas to support farmers/ranchers, food intermediaries, and eaters from COFSAC's community listening session

| Support for: | Policy ideas from COFSAC's community listening session included: |
|----------------------|--|
| Farmers and Ranchers | Supporting season extension for farmers Supporting land purchases with grants (not loans) Supporting soil preservation and restoration Supporting R&D/Innovation |
| Food Intermediaries | Developing infrastructure (coolers, trucking, storage) Supporting value-added food processing spaces for businesses and household food preservation Ensuring that food banks and food pantries have the needed resources and infrastructure to purchase from local farmers Supporting R&D/Innovation Catalyzing private capital including through innovative public-private partnerships (P3s) |
| Eaters | Supporting education on cooking, processing, growing food Focusing on root cause poverty relief Food pantries have the needed resources and infrastructure needed to purchase from local farmers Supporting additional staffing/operations for food distribution from pantries/mobile to those in need |



ENDNOTES

- 1 At https://cofoodsystemscouncil.org/white-papers/
- 2 https://www.federalregister.gov/
- 3 https://ag.colorado.gov/colorado-proud-newsletter
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- 31 Colorado COVID-19 Emergency Hunger Relief Fund. (Across first nine rounds of funding; Unduplicated Totals: 742 Unique Applicants and 365 Unique Grantees). More information available at: https://www.endhungerco.org/colorado-covid-hunger-relief-fund
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