

**Subject** Local food purchasing assistance grant program

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## Summary

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for a local food purchasing grant program.

The local food purchasing grant program allows MDA to award grants to applicants who use grant money to procure and distribute food to communities. This bill has a nonexclusive list of eligible grant applicants including individuals, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses.

MDA must prioritize applicants who: (1) source 100% of food from Minnesota; (2) source at least 70% of food from farmers experiencing limited land access or limited market access; and (3) distribute food at no cost to communities with low supermarket access in food deserts or low-income areas with substantial subpopulations such as aging populations or people with disabilities.