



Quarterly Webinar Series

# Leading With Equity: Tribal Food Sovereignty & Inclusive Engagement

July 17th, 2024 | 3 PM - 4 PM PST





# Webinar Logistics

- All webinar materials, including the recording and presentation, will be available on the Center's website ([www.swfoodbiz.org](http://www.swfoodbiz.org)) and shared with all registered.
- We encourage participants to turn their cameras on and use the chat to ask questions, share resources, and connect with other participants.
- There is time for Q/A at the end of the webinar





# Tracy Celio

## UC ANR

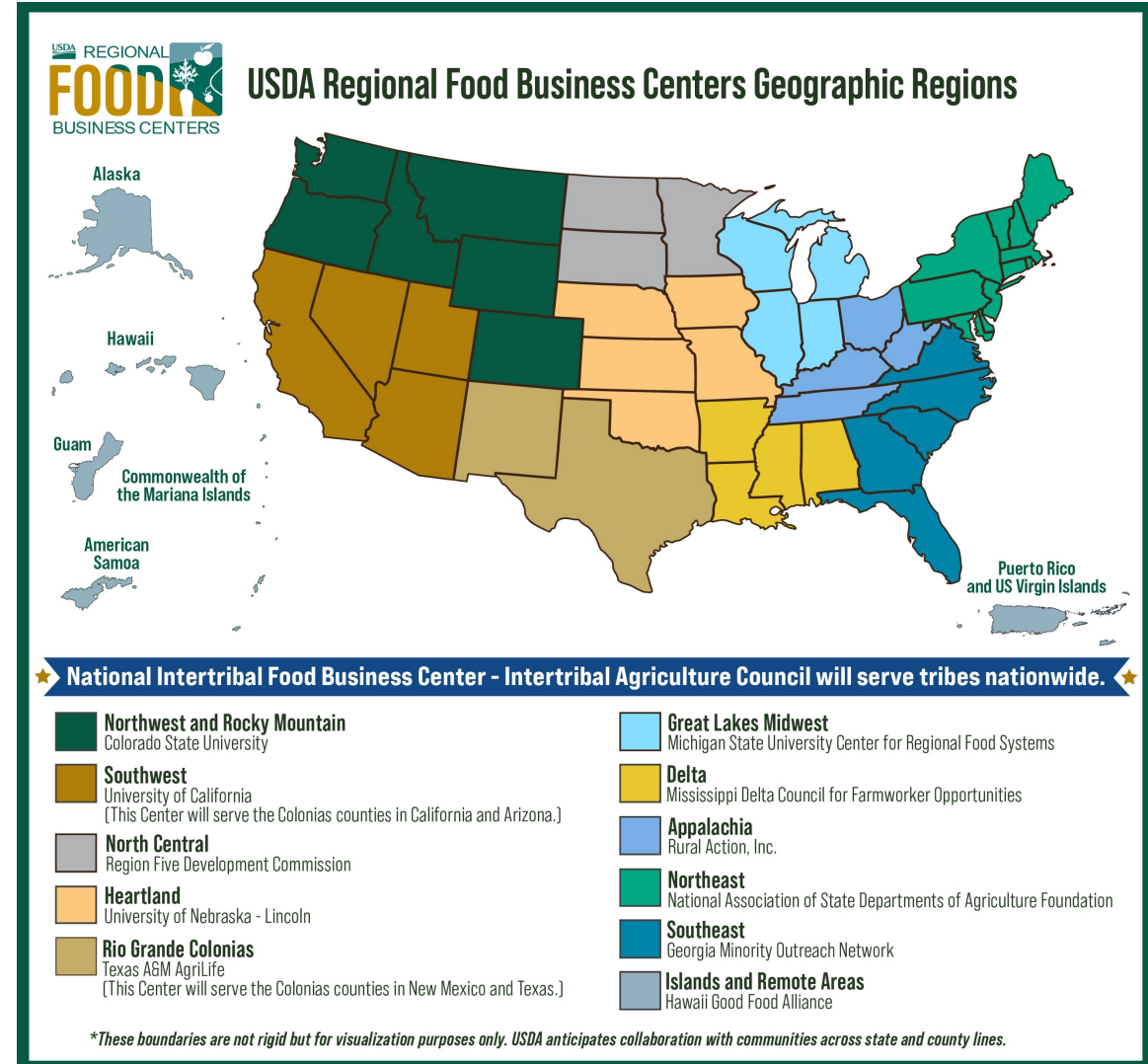


Tracy Celio joins UC ANR as program manager for the Southwest Regional Food Business Center where she will oversee the center's efforts. Tracy is a social scientist, who has been with UC ANR since 2012 and has worked with community-based programs. Before joining UC ANR, Tracy served in the US Peace Corps agriculture sector and went on to have a career in non-profit management. As Program Manager for the SWRFBC, Tracy looks forward to the role Food Business Centers will have in localizing food systems and creating resilient communities.



# About Regional Food Business Centers

- In September 2022, the USDA announced **\$400 million** to fund the USDA Regional Food Business Center initiative. In May 2023, **12 organizations** were selected to lead efforts in their region.
- **The 12 Regional Food Business Centers support all 50 U.S. states and territories and serve as regional hubs, providing localized assistance to address the needs of small and mid-sized food producers and food businesses in three key areas:**
  - Coordination
  - Technical Assistance
  - Capacity Building





# Center Responsibilities

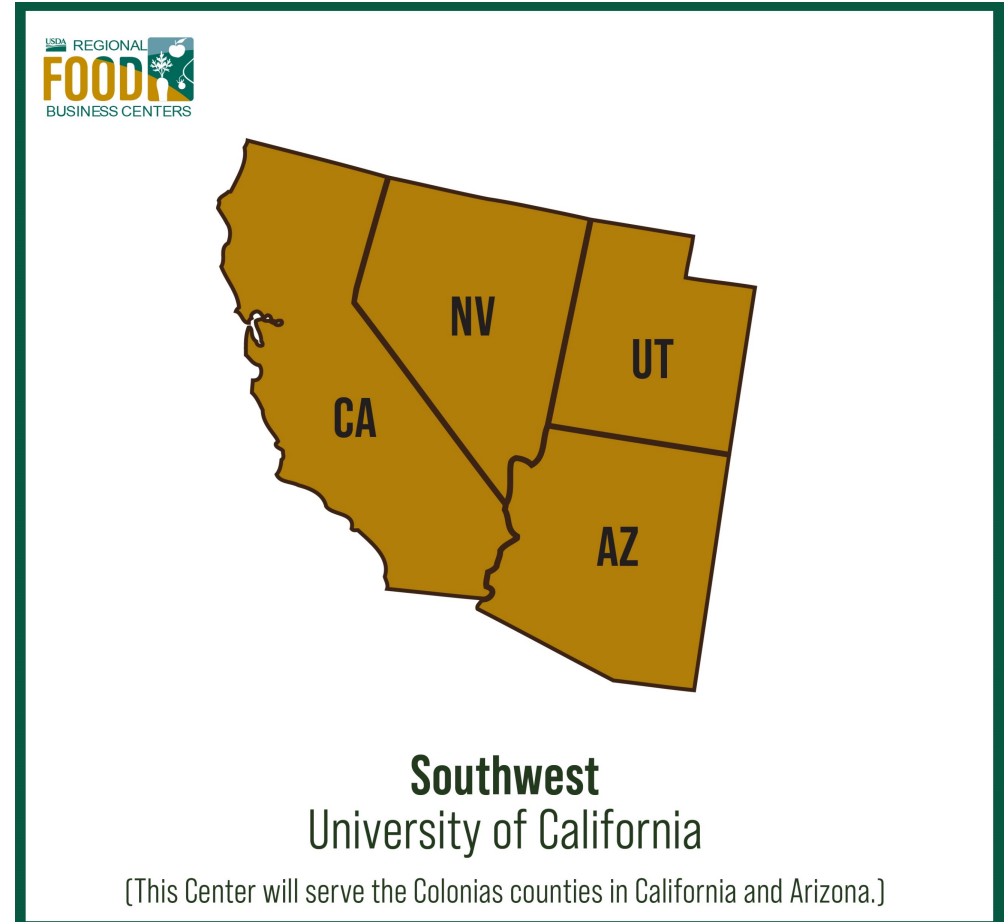
- **Coordination:** The Regional Food Centers act as regional hubs coordinating across geographic areas, with USDA, other federal, state, and tribal agencies with relevant resources, regional commissions, and the other Regional Food Centers. They also conduct outreach to underinvested communities and businesses.
- **Technical Assistance:** The Regional Food Centers provide direct business technical assistance to small and mid-sized food and farm businesses (producers, processors, distributors, and other businesses within the food supply chain) and food value and supply chain coordination.
- **Capacity Building:** The Regional Food Centers provide financial assistance through Business Builder Subawards up to \$100,000 to support projects focused on emerging regional needs and businesses that are working towards expansion and other investment.





# Southwest USDA Regional Food Business Center

- The Southwest USDA Regional Food Business Center is a **5-year, \$35 million** program funded by the USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program, **connecting Food and Agriculture Initiatives across Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah.**
- As part of the network of USDA Regional Food Business Centers, the Southwest Center is a **hub for the region's small and mid-tier food and farm businesses, and local and regional food sector development initiatives.**





# SWRFBC Leadership Council

## Arizona



## California



## Nevada



## Utah







# Arizona Partners

Local First Arizona  
University of Arizona  
Arizona Department of Agriculture

ASU Swette Center  
Danielle Corral Technical Assistance  
Manzanita  
Native American Advancement Foundation  
Southern Arizona Community Food Bank  
Thrive Consultancy  
White Mountain Ec. Development





# California Partners

**UC Santa Cruz**

**CSU Fresno**

**Riverside Food System Alliance**

**San Diego Food System Alliance**

UC Agricultural Issues Center

UC ANR, Sustainable Agriculture Research  
and Education Program

Community Alliance of Family Farmers

Gold Country Food Hub

Kitchen Table Advisors

Agriculture & Land-based Training Association

Larta Institute

Diaspora Groceries

Western Institute for Food Safety and Security

UC Davis, Agricultural Sustainability Institute

CA Farm Link

Center for Good Food Purchasing

Health Care Without Harm

**Occidental College**

SEE-LA

Crop Swap LA

LA Food Policy Council

Long Beach Fresh

SoCal Grant Makers

Farmer Ken

Prosperity Market

**CSU Chico**

North State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Morrison & Company Consulting

3CORE

Glenn County RCD

Lost Sierra Food Project

*Bolded partners are CA regional leads*

# Utah Partners

Utah State University Extension  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food



Extension  
UtahStateUniversity





# Nevada Partners

University of Nevada  
Nevada Department of Agriculture

Desert Research Institute  
Small Business Development Center, Agriculture & Food Systems



University of Nevada, Reno

# Kimber Lanning

## Local First Arizona



Kimber Lanning is an entrepreneur, business leader and community development specialist who works to cultivate strong self-reliant communities that enable a higher quality of life for people across Arizona. She is the founder and CEO of Local First Arizona, an organization focused on creating a diverse and inclusive Arizona economy with opportunity for all. She has been named one of the “50 Most Influential Women in Arizona” (Arizona Business Magazine), and was named Citizen Leader of the Year from the International Economic Development Council.





# Rafael Tapia Jr.

## Local First Arizona



Rafael F. Tapia, Jr., a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, is the Director of Tribal Community Connections at Local First Arizona. Rafael has over 20 years of economic, workforce and community development experience. Early in his career he dedicated over a decade to addictions and alcohol behavioral health, social, and residential treatment services. Prior to joining Local First Arizona, he served as the Vice President of Programs at Partnership With Native Americans, a national non-profit organization serving 60 reservations in 12 states in the Southwest and Northern Plains region of the United States.

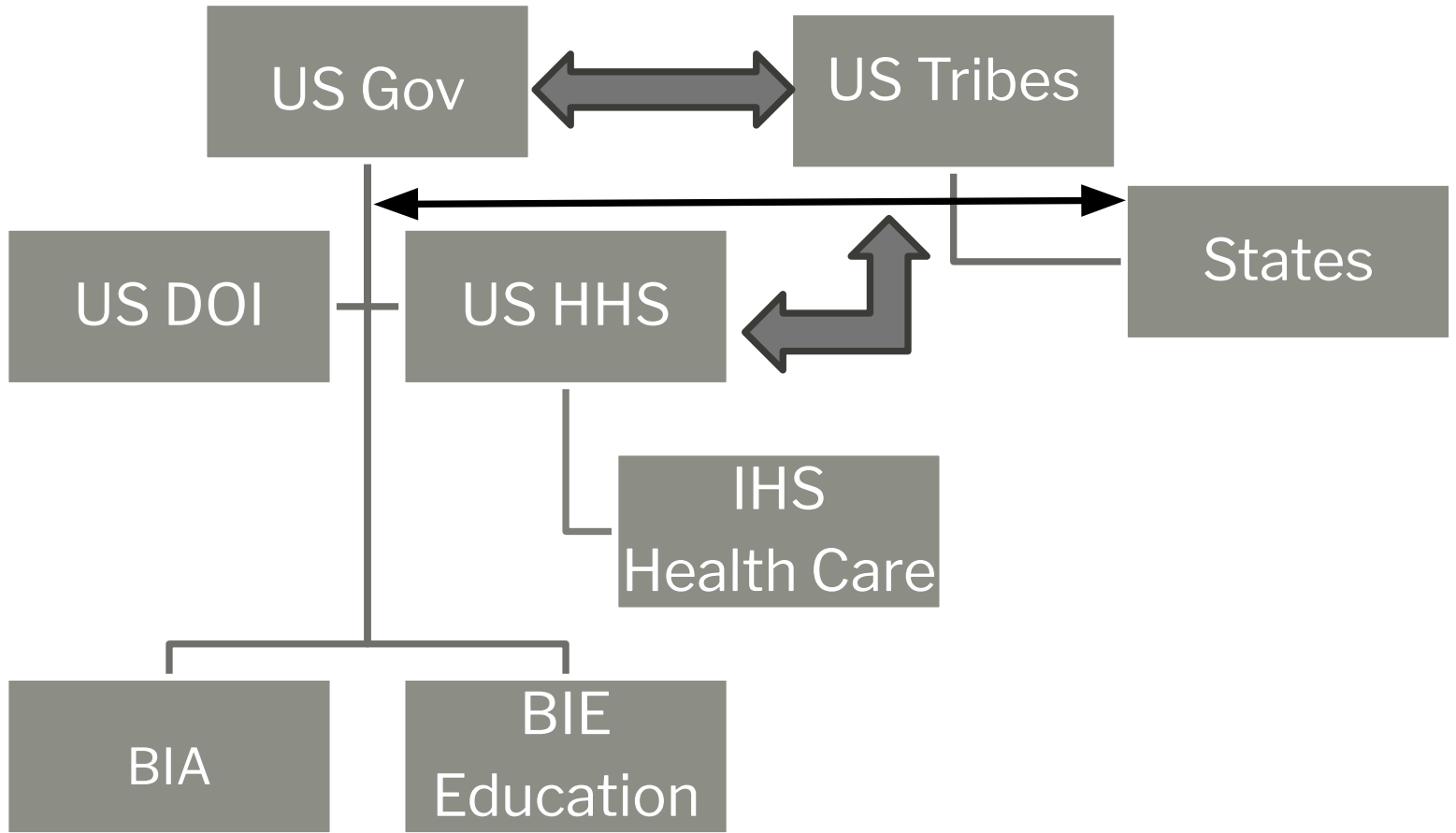


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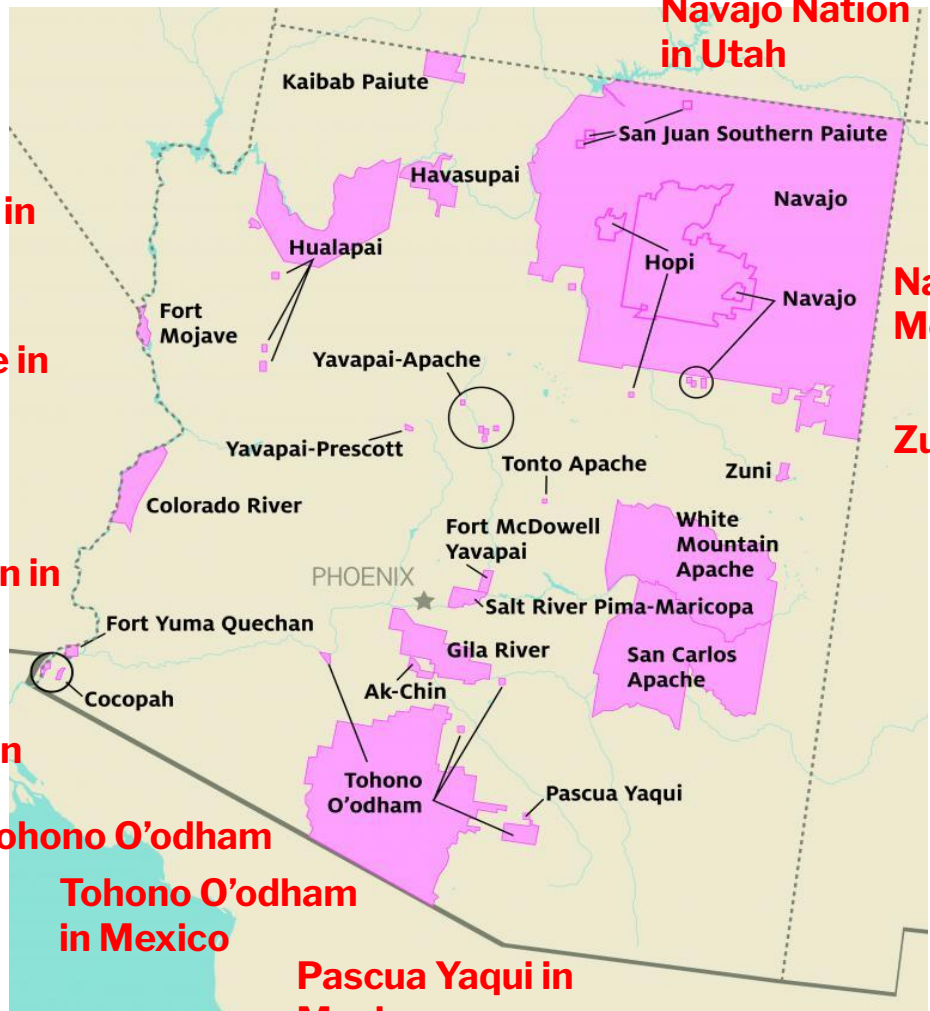
# **Tribal Structures and Implications to USDA's Regional Food Business Centers**











**Navajo Nation  
in Utah**

**Ft. Mojave in  
Nevada**

**Navajo Nation in New  
Mexico**

**Ft. Mojave in  
California**

**Zuni in New Mexico**

**Ft. Yuma Quechan in  
California**

**Cocopah in  
Mexico  
Hia C-ed in Tohono O'odham  
Nation**

**Tohono O'odham  
in Mexico**

**Pascua Yaqui in  
Mexico**

# Tribal Engagement Highlights

- Understanding the present day impacts of colonization
- Aligning incompatible systems
- Cultural implications in ideology & approach
- Serving Tribes whose lands extend beyond state's boundaries
- Providing technical assistance
- Capacity challenges and workarounds
- Limited current and historical access to capital and financial resources



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# Local First Arizona Tribal Partners

Tribal Community	Food Systems	Technical Assistance	Strategic Planning	NGO	Resource Partner Coordination	Business Development	Sustainability Initiatives
Colorado River Indian Tribes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Carlos Apache Tribe	X	X	X		X	X	X
White Mountain Apache Tribe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cocopah Tribe	X	X	X	X			
Hualapai Tribe	X	X	X				
FT. Mojave Tribe	X						
Pascua Yaqui Tribe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tohono O'odham Nation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hopi Tribe	X	X	X				
Navajo Nation	X	X	X				

Spotlight:

# Colorado River Indian Tribes



- The Colorado River Indian Tribe is located in western Arizona at Parker. The Reservation spans the Colorado River and has land in Arizona (La Paz County) and California (San Bernardino).
- CRIT Food Security, Sovereignty & Sustainability - food coalition member
- Kitchen Incubator Project – Kitchen a collaboration between CRIT Farms, University of Arizona Extension Office
- Business Development Services
- Strategic Planning
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Technical Assistance



Spotlight:

# San Carlos Apache Tribe



- The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation spans Gila, Graham, and Pinal Counties in southeastern Arizona, roaming over a landscape that ranges from alpine meadows to desert. Encompassing 1,834,781 acres, the San Carlos Apache Reservation was established by executive order on November 9, 1871.
  - Strategic & Action Planning:
    - 5 Cattle Associations
    - San Carlos Child Food Security Coalition
    - San Carlos Economic Development Initiatives
    - San Carlos Central Arizona Project – Water Rights
    - San Carlos Regional Food System Initiative
  - Technical Assistance
  - Business Development Services
-

Spotlight:

# White Mountain Apache Tribe



- White Mountain Apache Tribe is located in the east central region of Arizona, 194 miles northeast of Phoenix. Located on the Apache, Gila and Navajo Counties, the White Mountain Apaches reside on 1.6 million acres at its ancestral homeland on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
- Engaging micro growers, grass roots organizers, and the tribal farm
- Community Engagement Initiative – Vitalyst
- Chaghashe Bidan Siine – Food systems coalition member
- Spring 2 Action – an emerging nonprofit Technical Assistance

Regional Food Systems Initiative with the San Carlos Apache Tribe and Tonto Apache Tribe

Inter-tribal knowledge exchange gatherings

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Spotlight:

# Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe



- Spirit Mountain is the earthly origin of this tribe whose reservation spans land in Arizona, and Nevada. The present boundaries, which stretch along the banks of the Colorado River, cover 23,699 acres in Arizona and 5,582 acres in Nevada. The reservation is home to 1,120 people.
- Agriculture provides the basis for the Fort Mojave economy and 15,000 acres of land are under cultivation. Crops grown include staples like cotton, alfalfa and wheat.
- Strategic Planning
- Business Services
- — Technical Assistance



# Does this impact our work? How?

- Trust – A knowledge base leads to understanding
- Consistency – We have control over our commitments
- Jurisdiction – Respect goes a long way
- Ideology – There is no Native American Tribe, all are different
- Meaningful connections – You are an ambassador representing an NGO  
engaging a GO
- Strategic Alignment – What do you think are considerations as we braid  
and weave?

## **All Regional Food Business Centers will need supplemental capital**

- To meet the existing need
- To diminish the degree of difficulty for the borrower

## **Types of capital we have identified and/or committed**

- Foundations (grants and 1% loans)
- Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) via banks and potentially hospitals
- CDFIs
- Other USDA grants
- Loan pools (misc investors)

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# More to Come!



# Thea Rittenhouse

## California Department of Food and Agriculture



Thea Rittenhouse joined CDFA in September 2018 as the Farmer Equity Advisor. Her career has encompassed many aspects of agriculture and food systems work, including school and community gardens, beginning farmer training programs, farmworkers and farm to school programs. Much of her work has focused on serving small-scale, BIPOC producers, agricultural businesses and underserved communities. She holds a Masters Degree from UC Davis in Community Development with a focus on Sustainable Agriculture and Food systems.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE





# Embedding Equity and Increasing Access in State Government Programs

Thea Rittenhouse, *Farm Equity Advisor*

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Carmen Carrasco, *Small Farm Liaison*

[Carmen.Carrasco@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Carmen.Carrasco@cdfa.ca.gov)





# AB 1348 Farmer Equity Act

- Fall 2017 : Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry and CA Farmer Justice Collaborative
- Acknowledged farmers of color have historically not had equitable access to land and other resources necessary to farm, and that legacy of prejudice persists
- Set the precedent for CDFA to ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, and policies and programs
- Established a State definition of “socially disadvantaged”
- Created Farmer Equity Advisor Position at CDFA in the Executive Office (Fall 2018)
- Mandated a legislative report be submitted by 2020- the Farmer Equity Report





# CDFA Grant Program Equity Strategies: Small-Scale Producers & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Flexibility in program design
- Language Access
- Engagement & Outreach
- Technical Assistance Funding Models-Block Grant Models
- Considerations within programs for SDFRs and small-scale producers
  - Extended timelines
  - Application and Implementation TA ( AB 2377)
  - Target metrics and data collection
  - Program Evaluation





# CDFA Technical Assistance Models and Best Practices for Embedding Equity

- **CA Underserved and Small Producer Grant Program**- Flexibility in TA support, direct producer grants for drought relief.
- **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**- Additional Assistance & Equity Grants Analyst
- **Farm to School Grant Program**- 16 new regional staff to support producer engagement and increase procurement from small-scale and SDFRs
- **OEFI/ Climate Smart Ag Programs** – Prioritization of 25% funding allocated towards SDFRs
- **Organic Transition Pilot Grant Program** –Assists beginning and BIPOC farmers to transition to organic\*
- **Beginning Farmer & Farmworker Training and Workforce Development** - prioritizes programs supporting BIPOC beginning farmers and farmworkers\*
- **Urban Agriculture Grant Program**\*
- **Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program**\*
- **RFSI**\*
- \*One-time funding allocations



# Opportunities for BIPOC Leadership and Guidance of Programs and Policies

- BIPOC Producer & Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committees
- Direct support/consultation with key stakeholders (CFJC, IAC)
- Tribal Outreach Working Group- Targeted outreach and engagement in advance of program development
- Listening sessions, targeted outreach and engagement before/during/after program implementation
- Developing programs with priority on serving the most underserved groups





# Opportunities within USDA Regional Food Business Center Project

- Leverage USDA opportunities to increase impact in CA for historically underserved producers and small-scale business owners
- Opportunities to draw in new local partnerships and organizations
- Opportunity to build and strengthen TA networks, with a focus on underserved business owners







# Q&A



Register for our next webinar  
on October 16<sup>th</sup>!

SCAN ME



# Thank you!

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