

Stakeholder Toolkit
March 2021 Listening Sessions on
Food Purchase and Distribution Program and Coronavirus Response Grants

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will conduct outreach to gather feedback regarding the development, coordination and implementation of programming authorized by the COVID Stimulus Package, part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Sec. 751.

- [Provide Comment by March 31](#)
- [Register for Listening Session on Coronavirus Response Grants: March 19](#)
- [Register for Listening Session on Food Purchase and Distribution Program: March 22](#)

Provide comment on either topic by March 31

Comments can be submitted online or by email to AMSCOVIDStimulus@usda.gov. We welcome feedback from all interested parties, and we appreciate early response.

AMS encourages comments from smaller businesses, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, veteran producers, and underserved communities, and/or organizations representing these entities. AMS expects commenters writing or speaking on behalf of these entities to engage and involve them in planning comments.

Listening Session: Coronavirus Response Grants

Date: Friday, March 19, 2021

Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET

To gather feedback regarding the development, coordination, and implementation of grant programs to support food processing, distribution, seafood processing, farmers markets, and producers and other businesses identified in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. The legislation directs USDA to use these grant funds to help businesses respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19. We are holding this listening session to get a better understanding of the needs of the various kinds of organizations targeted in the legislation to respond to COVID-19.

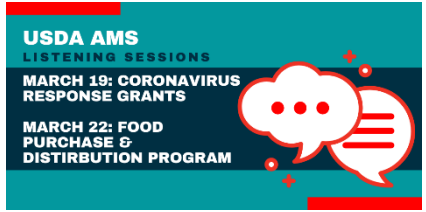
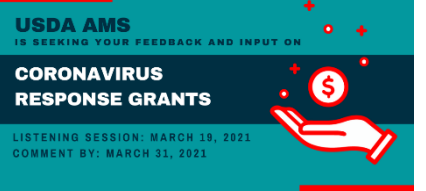

Listening Session: Food Purchases

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET

USDA will hold this listening session to gather feedback from nonprofit organizations, distributors, processors, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to on the development, coordination and implementation of a food purchase and distribution program intended to provide additional aid to nonprofits serving Americans in need of nutrition assistance.

Social Media

SUGGESTED POST COPY	SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHIC
<p>USDA needs your input on how best to use resources to help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural industry & communities in need of nutrition assistance.</p> <p>Register and comment early: https://go.usa.gov/xsmAE</p>	 <p>USDA AMS LISTENING SESSIONS MARCH 19: CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANTS MARCH 22: FOOD PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM</p>
<p>Provide feedback on how USDA can use resources to help smaller businesses, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, veteran producers, and underserved communities respond to COVID-19.</p> <p>Register and comment early: https://go.usa.gov/xsmAE</p>	 <p>USDA AMS IS SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK & INPUT ON CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANTS FOOD PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM COMMENT BY MARCH 31, 2021</p>
<p>Calling food processing, distribution, seafood processing, farmers markets, producers & related businesses: Help USDA understand the needs of your sector in responding to COVID-19.</p> <p>Submit your comment: https://go.usa.gov/xsm7Z Deadline: 3/31</p>	 <p>USDA AMS IS SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT ON CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANTS LISTENING SESSION: MARCH 19, 2021 COMMENT BY: MARCH 31, 2021</p>
<p>Calling nonprofits, distributors, processors, and others providing food and nutrition assistance: USDA wants your feedback to develop a food purchase and distribution program.</p> <p>Submit your comment: https://go.usa.gov/xsm7Z Deadline: 3/31</p>	 <p>USDA AMS IS SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT ON A FOOD PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM LISTENING SESSION: MARCH 22, 2021 COMMENT BY: MARCH 31, 2021</p>
<p>March 19: USDA is hosting a listening session to hear from stakeholders on how grants can support food processing and distribution, seafood processing, farmers markets, & related businesses respond to coronavirus</p> <p>Register: https://go.usa.gov/xsm7K Comment: https://go.usa.gov/xsm7Z</p>	 <p>USDA AMS IS SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT ON CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANTS LISTENING SESSION: MARCH 19, 2021 COMMENT BY: MARCH 31, 2021</p>

March 22: USDA is hosting a listening session on how best to develop and implement a food purchase and distribution program.

Register: <https://go.usa.gov/xsm7n>

Comment: <https://go.usa.gov/xsm7Z>

