



# ***The Local and Regional Farmer and Market Support Act***

## ***2020 Pandemic Response Legislation***

***Congresswoman Alma S. Adams (NC-12)***

The COVID-19 emergency has caused massive economic disruption for food and agricultural producers across our country, and small and medium-sized farms selling in local food markets have been particularly hard hit. Recent [surveys](#) show that small and medium-sized farms selling in local food markets are suffering greatly.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program has been difficult to utilize for direct marketing farmers and ranchers – especially Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) producers – and it does not include support for the local and regional food economies these farmers depend on.

**The Local and Regional Farmer and Market Support Act** (Local Farmer Act) would address these issues by targeting pandemic aid directly to local and regional food producers and markets to help them weather the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

### **The Local Farmer Act will:**

- **Create an alternative coronavirus relief payment program for farmers** that sell in local and regional markets based on their historic revenue, rather than price loss;
- **Provide emergency response grants for farmers markets and local food enterprises** to implement public health protections and coronavirus-smart marketing practices;
- **Provide emergency response grants to direct marketing farmers** to help them respond to shifting markets and adopt new socially distant practices and sales models;
- **Support equity and ensure access to these grants and relief payments** by prioritizing assistance to BIPOC farmers and minority-owned farmers markets and local-food enterprises; and
- **Provide robust outreach and technical assistance** to BIPOC farmers and ranchers.

### **Supported by:**

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.