

Forward Contract Pilot Grant Program Awards Eight Wyoming Farms, Aggregators, and Food Security Service Organizations

Project to Strengthen Food Access in Wyoming by Distributing Funds and Providing Technical Assistance to Food System Actors in the State

Cheyenne, Wyoming - May 29, 2025 – The Wyoming Department of Family Services and Food Works Group are pleased to announce that eight Wyoming organizations have been awarded grant funds to strengthen food production and food access in the state. Specific details about the grant process and project summaries for the eight awarded projects can be found below.

This work is part of the \$2.4 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded Food Security System Implementation Project to strengthen food access in Wyoming by distributing funds and providing technical assistance to food system contributors in the state. The Wyoming Department of Family Services awarded a contract to Food Works Group (FWG) to administer this program and distribute funds throughout the state of Wyoming. FWG is a nationally focused advisory firm that supports local and regional food systems. FWG is implementing three state-wide recommendations from the [Wyoming Food Systems Assessment](#), which include:

- **Future purchase agreements:** Develop future purchase agreements, also known as forward-contracts, between Wyoming producers and food pantries or other food security service organizations to support the sale and distribution of Wyoming-grown foods. This may include funding for food purchases, technical assistance to develop strong relationships, and providing infrastructure for moving food from farm to consumer.
- **Capacity building via grants:** Make grants for capacity building projects in the Wyoming food supply chain, such as cold storage and distribution systems. These funds will increase overall resiliency, capacity to serve smaller frontier communities, and support growth in local food production and purchasing across the state.
 - **Connection:** Connect food insecure Wyomingites to resources to thrive by ensuring emergency and other stop-gap assistance programs are easy to access, and timely for a family where someone has just lost a job or faced some other emergency.

Throughout the project, FWG is working closely with the [Wyoming Food Coalition](#), a key leader in the Wyoming food system. Wyoming Food Coalition has been selected to implement the fourth recommendation of the Wyoming food systems assessment, Coordination and Collaboration. Their mission is to strengthen local food systems by connecting stakeholders and amplifying their voices so that Wyoming producers, eaters, and environments thrive.

Forward Contract Pilot Grant Program Overview

In January 2025, FWG launched the Forward Contract (Future Purchase Agreement) Pilot Request for Applications and accepted applications through early February. The Pilot Program accepted applications from three types of entities:

- Wyoming producers that grow or make consumer-ready food products in the state of Wyoming
- Wyoming food security service organizations that serve Wyoming residents, such as food banks and food pantries
- Wyoming aggregation or distribution businesses that handle products on behalf of Wyoming producers and/or food security service organizations

The Pilot Program received a total of **33 applications** requesting more than \$1,150,000 in funding. All applications were reviewed by a review committee of seven individuals with extensive experience in local food systems and food security. The review committee made recommendations for funding, which were reviewed and finalized by the Wyoming Food Insecurity System Implementation Steering Committee (Steering Committee). The Steering Committee prioritized awarding applicants who requested equipment funding due to the timeframe of the pilot program, as this would allow them to maximize benefit and hit the ground running. For this Pilot Program, \$322,705 in funds have been awarded to eight organizations, about 25% of the total program funds available (approximately \$1.3 million).

Awarded Entities and Project Descriptions

The Pilot Program awarded a total of \$322,705 in funds across eight applicants to support producers, food security service organizations, and aggregators in Wyoming. Projects launched on May 1 and will continue through the end of 2025.

[1890 Farms](#) - Riverton, Wyoming - is a local farm specializing in fresh sweet corn that aims to expand its distribution throughout Wyoming to address food insecurity. By obtaining Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, the farm will improve food safety standards, ensuring the distribution of high-quality, safe products. This project will enhance on-farm and distribution infrastructure through investments in a refrigerated trailer and corn seed planter. In addition, the project will establish strategic partnerships to widen sweet corn distribution, particularly in underserved communities facing food insecurity.

The [Edible Prairie Project](#) - Gillette, Wyoming - is committed to bridging the food insecurity gap in Campbell County, Wyoming, through sustainable food production, equitable distribution, and cultivating community connections. With our combined Protein from the Prairie and Veggie Basket programs, we aim to provide families experiencing food insecurity with local, high-quality produce, meat, honey, and eggs. Edible Prairie Project achieves this by offering weekly Veggie Baskets during the spring, summer, and fall growing seasons at no-cost to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) families and at a 40% discount to local families that do not qualify for federal assistance but fall below the self-sufficiency standard as defined by the Wyoming Women's Foundation. Project funds will be used to help us expand Veggie Basket offerings with increased fresh produce, at least one local protein item in each basket, and an extended season for the Veggie Baskets by adding two local protein baskets in November and December.

The [Foundations for Nations Food Pantry](#) - Riverton, Wyoming - provides supplemental groceries to families in Fremont County at no cost. Through their Locally Sourced Food Project, the organization will formalize relationships with local producers and improve community access to local produce and beef. Specifically, Foundations for Nations Food Pantry will partner with local beef producers to purchase ground beef and with 1890 Farms to purchase local sweet corn. This will provide pantry patrons with consistent access to local protein and produce. Currently, patrons rarely have access to any ground beef, let alone, locally grown beef. The purchase of local cattle will also benefit local ranchers and processors.

[Eat Wyoming](#) - Casper, Wyoming - is a food hub that matches Wyoming's producers to Wyoming consumers, in the name of bringing local, healthy foods with ease and efficiency to buyers while building strong and sustainable farms. Eat Wyoming supports direct to consumer access to local food through their Veggie Box Program and supports wholesale customers across Wyoming. Through this project, Eat Wyoming will be able

to maintain and expand their existing logistical and transportation network and invest in inventory software to facilitate forward contracting between Wyoming food producers and food banks/pantries. This project will create a reliable supply chain, ensuring food banks and pantries have access to fresh, locally sourced food, while providing financial stability for producers through guaranteed sales. Key activities include establishing forward contracting agreements, strengthening food distribution and logistics, aligning supply with demand, and monitoring and improving program effectiveness for long-term sustainability.

[One22 Resource Center](#) - Jackson, Wyoming - addresses the growing need for food assistance in Teton County, where high living costs force many low- to moderate-income households to make difficult trade-offs, often at the expense of their grocery budgets.

One22's food pantry, the Jackson Cupboard, serves over 300 households monthly, providing no cost groceries through an online ordering system and four satellite pantries. One22 is partnering with [Slow Food in the Tetons](#), a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening the local and regional sustainable food economy by fostering connections around good, clean and fair food. Through this project, One22 and Slow Food will establish forward contracts with Wyoming farmers and ranchers to supply locally grown food to the Jackson Cupboard, which will provide upfront funding to producers, allowing them to plan for the growing season while ensuring a stable supply of high-quality, nutrient dense food for households in need. This initiative will also strengthen Wyoming's food system by incentivizing and sustaining increased production capacity for local producers and community food resources.

[Rooted in Wyoming](#) - Rooted in Wyoming - Sheridan, Wyoming - is a nonprofit organization that strengthens local food systems by developing school and community agriculture projects to improve access to locally grown food for Wyoming families. Their programs focus on agricultural and nutritional education and fostering resilient, community-based food networks.

This project will support a collaboration in Sheridan County that connects local producers with food assistance organizations—The Food Group, Ranchester's Community Cupboard, and The Salvation Army in Sheridan. With grant support, Rooted in Wyoming and its partners will strengthen existing relationships and build new ones between producers and organizations serving families in need.

The initiative will increase access to fresh, locally grown food—including beef, pork,

eggs, lettuce, carrots, potatoes, and more—ensuring that more community members benefit from nutritious, Wyoming-grown products.

[Silver Stream Farm](#) - If you live in Wyoming's Sublette or Teton county, you know the deal: long winters, short growing seasons, and grocery store produce that tastes like it gave up miles ago. In fact, most fruits and vegetables travel 1,500 miles to get to you, losing flavor and nutrients every step of the way. Unfortunately, you're stuck in a food system built for freight, not flavor.

At Silver Stream Farm, you get bold, nutrient-rich produce grown in a greenhouse at 8,000 feet. Because we harvest at peak ripeness and deliver fresh, you get more taste, more nutrition, and zero grocery store compromises.

- ✓ Enjoy produce that tastes alive
- ✓ Expand your local food variety
- ✓ Make healthy eating automatic

You want meals that taste amazing, nourish your body, and fit your life, without the grocery store letdowns. That's exactly what you get with Silver Stream Farm, every season. This project will allow Silver Stream Farm to build relationships with local food security service organizations and provide high-quality, Wyoming-grown vegetables to these organizations at no cost. This project will support Silver Stream Farm in building a scalable and sustainable process to provide long-term, local food distribution to food-insecure Wyomingites in 2026 and beyond.

[Slow Food Wind River](#) - Lander, Wyoming - is a nonprofit hub for local food in the Wind River Basin, which operates **[Meadowlark Market & Kitchen](#)**, serving as its physical hub. Slow Food Wind River bolsters the local food economy, addresses food security, and reduces food waste in the Wind River Region by sourcing excess, wholesome food from local farmers markets, producers, and the Food Bank. Through partnerships with local farmers, markets, and food access partners, this project will support the implementation of a novel approach to this problem through the Food Reclamation Project, a food recovery and redistribution system that salvages excess or unsellable food due to cosmetic imperfections, nearing expiration dates, or surplus. This initiative will support local food systems, enhance community access to nutritious foods, and reduce the environmental impact of food waste.

Future Funds Available

By early 2026, FWG will announce the availability of the full grant program with funds available to enhance the capacity for food pantries to purchase and distribute Wyoming-grown foods. FWG is available to offer assistance to potential applicants to connect with Wyoming-grown food and to explore logistics and details associated with working with Wyoming producers. Interested applicants can sign up to be notified about the 2026 Full Grant Program [here](#). In addition, FWG will soon develop a process and begin making investments in infrastructure and distribution to better connect WY producers to buyers.

If you would like to learn more on any topics covered or have any questions, please contact us at wyo@foodworksgroup.com

This project is paid for with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act. During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Wyoming Legislature allocated the ARPA funding to implement the recommendations identified in the Wyoming Food Systems Assessment, completed in spring 2024.

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Wyoming Department of Family Services

The [Wyoming Department of Family Services](#)' work centers around three values: 1) Safe at home, 2) Giving families opportunities for success and 3) Supporting the people who support the families. DFS achieves this vision by giving families opportunities for success throughout their interactions with the department. Families come in contact with the department for many reasons, including but not limited to, child abuse and neglect services, adult protection services, juvenile justice services, child care licensing and assistance with food or child care. Many of DFS's goals reflect the department's desire to improve upon the practice and service delivery that enhance families' abilities to be successful and remain safe at home. More information can be found in the department's [SFY 2024-2026 Three-Year Strategic Plan](#).

Food Works Group

[Food Works Group](#) (FWG) is a nationally-focused, women-owned advisory firm that measures, strategizes and supports equitable and sustainable progress across the food system. Our work helps clients solve operational challenges with a goal towards accelerating success, maximizing impact, and adapting to the fast-paced evolution of regional food systems. We advise clients on a range of topics, including: agriculture and food related business operations and planning, asset mapping and needs assessments,

food banking and food hub program operations and evaluation, workshop development and stakeholder engagement, facility and financial modeling, and project and program implementation across the food system.

Wyoming Food Coalition

Until December 2019, Wyoming was the only state without any form of food policy council. However, numerous producers, local food networks, food security and justice collaborations, institutions of higher education, and other food system leaders had been working for years to address challenges across the state. In late 2019, leaders from these sectors met and combined decades of experience to form the [Wyoming Food Coalition](#). Our mission is to strengthen local food systems by connecting stakeholders and amplifying their voices so that Wyoming producers, eaters, and environments thrive.