



June 13, 2021

Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
476 State Office Building  
100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chairs and members of the committee,

We are dismayed that the Healthy Eating Here at Home program, otherwise known as Market Bucks, was eliminated in the Agriculture budget agreement.

In a time of unprecedented food insecurity, Market Bucks helped low-income Minnesotans stretch their buying power at farmers markets with a \$10 match—supporting those struggling to put food on the table, farmers, and local economies alike.

Farmers markets around the state have already begun their season with the expectation that Market Bucks would continue to operate as it has been doing successfully for almost a decade. But on July 1<sup>st</sup>, without the funds necessary to continue, the program will come to an abrupt halt—undoubtedly causing confusion and disappointment for all involved.

- SNAP participants who were able to leverage Market Bucks this month to afford healthy, local foods will show up to their local markets in July only to learn that the program no longer exists.
- Farmers that have benefited from the program bringing in approximately 13,000 new customers annually will see their customer base diminish.
- Should funds become available in the future to reinstate the program, it will be overshadowed by a degree of uncertainty given the current disruption.

Later in July, the program stands to lose an award from the USDA for a full Federal match of \$325,000 per year. We will be sacrificing the opportunity to leverage \$3 into local economies for every \$1 the state invested.

We urge the committee and leadership to explore any and all options to preserve Market Bucks—a program that we cannot afford to lose.

Please contact Leah Gardner [lgardner@hungersolutions.org](mailto:lgardner@hungersolutions.org) or 651-789-9850 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Aitkin Farmers' Market  
Albert Lea Farmers Market  
Alexandria Farmers Market  
Alternative Roots Farm  
Ambuehl Farm  
Annandale Farmers Market  
Appetite For Change, Inc.  
Auntie Wendy's Kettle Corn  
Bagley Area Farmers Market  
Beans Coffee Co  
Becker Farmers Market  
Big Lake Farmers Market  
Big Woods Orchard  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Boondock, Enterprises  
Bread in the Meadow  
Brilliance, LLC  
California Street Farm  
Cannon Valley Farmers' Market, Faribault  
Cargill  
Catholic Charities Social Concerns  
Cedar Crate Farm  
Central MN Vegetable Growers Association  
Chengwatana Community Farm  
City of Little Falls  
City of Minneapolis  
Claire Nelson Farmers Market  
Clover Valley Farms, LLC  
Community Action Duluth  
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)  
Cuyuna Range Farmers Market  
D & S Gardens  
Dante's Cookies  
Dave Nelson Greenhouse, LLC  
Dream of Wild Health  
Drifted Stone Homestead  
Duluth Community School Collaborative  
Duluth Farmers Market  
East Isles Farmers Market  
Empowered by Nature Wellness Center LLC

Essentia Health  
Eyota Farmers Market  
Fairhaven Farm  
Farmers Market Place LLC  
Grillinmeats  
Ferments and More  
Finland Farmers Market/Friends of the Finland Community  
Fireside Orchard & Gardens  
First Foods Farm & Seeds  
First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead  
Floodwood River farm  
Forks in the Dirt  
Four Sisters Farmers Market  
Fulton Farmers Market  
Get Fit Itasca  
Go Boy Breads  
Goodhue Farmers Market  
Goodview Farmers Market  
Grand Rapids Farmers' Market  
Great River Vineyard  
Guldan Family Farm  
GVY Produce  
Hartshorn Farm  
Healthy Northland  
Heather's Home Goods  
Hibbing Farmers Market  
Holistic Health Farms  
Hopkins Farmers Market  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Hutchinson Farmers Market  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability/  
MN Farmers Union St. Louis Co  
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis  
Johnson Family Pastures  
Keystone Community Services  
Kingfield Farmers Market  
Lake City Food Shelf  
Lake City Market by the Lake

Legal Services Advocacy Project  
Leuer Gardens, LLC.  
Lincoln County Farmers Market  
Little Chili Farm  
Little Falls Farmers Market  
Luverne Farmer's Market  
Mankato Farmers' Market  
Maple Grove Farmers Market  
Marshall Farmers' Market  
Mary Dirty Face Farm  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Midtown Farmers Market  
Mill City Farmers Market  
Minnesota Farmers Union  
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association  
Minnesota Fresh Farm  
Monticello Farmers' Market  
Morris Area Farmers Market  
Musser Produce  
Neighborhood House  
Neighborhood Roots  
Nokomis Farmers Market  
North Node Consulting, LLC  
Northeast Farmers Market  
Northland Allies  
Open Arms of Minnesota  
Otisco Valley Growers  
Out on a Limb Orchard and Gardens  
Park Rapids Farmers Market  
Pillsbury United Communities  
Pipestone Farmers Market  
Prairie Horizons Farm LLC  
Prana Kombucha  
PRISM  
Purple Carrot Market  
Rebel Rooster Farm  
RebelSoil  
Red Wing Farmers Market  
Renewing the Countryside  
Richfield Farmers Market  
Riverside Farmers Market  
Rochester Farmers Market  
Rockwood Maple Farm  
Ruhland's Strudel Haus  
Rutabaga Project

SAFE in Virginia MN  
Second Harvest Heartland  
Shared Grounds Farmers Cooperative  
Sharing Our Roots  
Sheepy Hollow @ Native Oaks Farm  
Smoke Signals  
Sogn Valley Farm  
Sonnek Potatoes  
Sprout MN  
St Cloud Area Farmers Market  
St Paul Farmers Market  
St. Luke's Farmers' Market  
St. Mary's Regional Health Center  
St. Peter Farmers' Market  
Staples Area Farmers Market  
Stearns County Public Health  
Stevens Square Farmers Market  
Stone Hearth Farm & Garden  
Stone's Throw Farm  
The Aliveness Project  
The Food Group  
The Good Acre  
The Little Market That Could  
Thorson's Farm Fresh Produce  
Tower Farmers Market  
Twin Cities Green Farm, LLC  
Twin Ports Helping Hands  
Two Harbors Farmers Market  
Ullands Timeless Gardens  
Under the Sun Herbs  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Urban Roots  
Virginia Market Square  
Wabasha County Social Services Income  
Maintenance Dept  
Wabasha Downtown Farmers Market  
Wadena Farmers Market  
Welcome Water Protectors  
Wendt Family Greens  
West Side Farmers Market  
Whitewater Gardens Farm  
Willswood Apiary and Farm  
Winona Farmers Market  
Worthington Farmers Market