NOFA-VT is requesting $500,000 in ongoing funding to Strengthen Vermont Farm Viability and Address Food Security by sustaining two proven programs: Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share

Crop Cash

• Doubles 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits for ***fruits and vegetables*** purchased at Vermont farmers markets. The program is federally funded, but a local match is required. State funds will allow us to continue to meet increased demand and maximize federal funding.

Crop Cash Plus

• Expands Crop Cash to meat, dairy, eggs, bread, and more, extending the program's impact to all agricultural vendors. **State funding is necessary to continue this critical program so that hundreds more farmers will benefit, and thousands of low-income Vermonters can purchase more local, fresh food.**

Farm Share

• Pays for 25-75% of the cost of a CSA. **State funding would allow us to support up to 700 families in purchasing a consistent supply of locally grown food.** The Farm Share Program has subsidized CSA shares[1] for low-income Vermonters for 30 years.

[1] CSA (also known as Community Supported Agriculture) is a sales model that connects people directly with farmers. When you sign up for a CSA at a farm, you pay in advance for a portion (or "share") of the farm's upcoming harvest, and receive a weekly box of food all season.

These programs have a double impact. With every dollar, low-income Vermonters can purchase healthy, fresh, local food, and Vermont farmers receive a reliable, fair price for their goods.

Vermonters count on these programs every week. Thanks to the State's support, these programs have leveraged nearly $1.6 million in local food purchases in the past two years. These funds directly support the viability of hundreds of farms, and food security for thousands of people in Vermont.

State funding is necessary to continue leveraging federal and philanthropic dollars to support the best possible outcomes for Vermonters. The State of Vermont can make policy choices that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here, while ensuring our farmers can profit from growing the food we all need. Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share are key to Vermont's food security and a viable agricultural sector.

"It's the little things that create the blueprint of how to live for our children. Going to the CSA is ONLY possible with your financial help. After 3+ years now of your scholarship support it is fully a part of my children's "blueprint" that one goes to a farm stand in the summer for local fresh food."

-Farm Share Participant

"Crop Cash Plus was an excellent addition to the program allowing for purchase of meat and eggs. I had a lot of customers that relied on that last year, hopefully it will come back again!"

-Anna Jo Smith of Smith Family Farm

"[Crop Cash] had an enormous impact on our ability to buy local, healthy food for our family. Never before have we been able to afford to buy fruits, veggies, meat, and dairy every week from farmers so near to us...Our kids got to know the farmers at the market and were much more likely to eat their beans when they [knew the farmer they] came from."

-Crop Cash Customer

To learn more, contact Johanna Doren, NOFA-VT's Direct Markets & Local Food Access Program Director, by emailing johanna@nofavt.org or calling (802) 419-0057.