



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4970

Introduced 1/27/2022, by Rep. Cyril Nichols

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.50

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. In provisions concerning the Department of Human Services' Health Local Food Incentives Program, expands the program to provide grants to farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores, and other direct food retailers that participate in the SNAP program (rather than providing grants to participating Illinois farmers markets and direct producer-to-consumer venues). Requires the Department to consult and cooperate with non-profit organizations to develop and implement rules to distribute grants under the program (rather than designating a single non-profit organization or agency to receive an annual \$500,000 grant to be distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets and direct producer-to-consumer venues). Effective July 1, 2022.

LRB102 24808 KTG 34053 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 12-4.50 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.50)

7 Sec. 12-4.50. Healthy Local Food Incentives Program.

8 (a) Legislative findings. Diet and other lifestyle choices  
9 contribute to more than half of all deaths in Illinois. Health  
10 risk factors include smoking, obesity, stress, nutrition, high  
11 blood pressure, and alcohol and drug use. Illinois residents  
12 should be encouraged to adopt diets and lifestyles that lead  
13 to wellness. The State can help provide that encouragement by  
14 funding wellness programs that enhance the health of Illinois  
15 residents. Healthy local food incentives encourage wellness  
16 among some of the most vulnerable residents of Illinois (those  
17 whose incomes are below the poverty line and who often have  
18 limited access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods) by  
19 doubling the purchasing power of LINK cardholders at farmers  
20 markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported  
21 agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer  
22 venues, and other direct food retailers across the State. The  
23 benefits of such a program include: an increase in population

1 health, Medicaid health care cost savings, decreased incidence  
2 of preventable diseases, increased revenue for Illinois small  
3 farmers, and economic stimulus for the region.

4 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

5 "FINI eligible fruits and vegetables" means any variety of  
6 fresh, canned, dried, or frozen whole or cut fruits and  
7 vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils, and salt (i.e.  
8 sodium), as defined by the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive  
9 Grant Program administered by the United States Department of  
10 Agriculture.

11 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card  
12 issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of  
13 enabling a user of the card to obtain SNAP benefits or cash.

14 "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
15 Program.

16 (c) The Department of Human Services shall establish a  
17 Healthy Local Food Incentives Program to double the purchasing  
18 power of Illinois residents with limited access to fresh  
19 fruits and vegetables. The Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund  
20 is created as a special fund in the State treasury for the  
21 purpose of implementing the Healthy Local Food Incentives  
22 Program. All moneys received pursuant to this Section shall be  
23 deposited into the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund.

24 (d) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human  
25 Services shall make grants ~~an annual grant of \$500,000~~ from  
26 the Fund to ~~a qualified Illinois non profit organization or~~

1 ~~agency, which shall be distributed to~~ participating Illinois  
2 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,  
3 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct  
4 producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food retailers  
5 that participate in the SNAP program for the purpose of  
6 providing matching dollar incentives (up to a specified  
7 amount) for the dollar value of SNAP benefits spent on FINI  
8 eligible fruits and vegetables at those participating food  
9 retailers. The Department of Human Services shall consult and  
10 cooperate with non-profit organizations to develop and  
11 implement rules to distribute grants as provided in this  
12 subsection ~~participating Illinois farmers markets and direct~~  
13 ~~producer-to-consumer venues.~~

14 (e) Qualifying non-profit organizations ~~The designated~~  
15 ~~qualified non-profit organization or agency~~ shall have a  
16 demonstrated track record of:

17 (1) building a statewide network;

18 (2) designing and implementing successful healthy food  
19 incentive programs that connect SNAP recipients with local  
20 producers;

21 (3) implementing funds distribution and reporting  
22 processes;

23 (4) providing training and technical assistance to  
24 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,  
25 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores,  
26 direct producer-to-consumer venues, or other direct food

1 retailers;

2 (5) conducting community outreach and data collection;

3 and

4 (6) providing full accounting and administration of  
5 funds distributed to farmers markets, farm stands, mobile  
6 markets, community-supported agriculture sites, grocery  
7 stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues, or other  
8 direct food retailers.

9 (f) 100% of the moneys deposited into the Fund shall be  
10 distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets, farm  
11 stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture sites,  
12 grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues, and other  
13 direct food retailers that participate in the SNAP program for  
14 healthy local food incentives.

15 (g) Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, the  
16 designated non-profit organizations ~~qualified non profit~~  
17 ~~organization or agency~~ shall submit a progress report to the  
18 Department of Human Services. The progress report shall  
19 include the following information:

20 (1) the names and locations of Illinois farmers  
21 markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported  
22 agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct  
23 producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food  
24 retailers ~~and direct producer-to-consumer venues~~ that  
25 received funds distributed under the Program;

26 (2) the dollar amount of funds awarded to each

1 participating Illinois farmers market, farm stand, mobile  
2 market, community-supported agriculture site, grocery  
3 store, direct producer-to-consumer venue, and other direct  
4 food retailer ~~and direct producer-to-consumer venue;~~

5 (3) the dollar amount of SNAP benefits, and funds  
6 provided under the Program, that were spent at Illinois  
7 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,  
8 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores,  
9 direct producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food  
10 retailers participating in the Program, as well as the  
11 dollar amount of any unspent funds available under the  
12 Program;

13 (4) the number of SNAP transactions carried out  
14 annually at participating Illinois farmers markets, farm  
15 stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture  
16 sites, grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues,  
17 and other direct food retailers;

18 (5) the impact of the Program on increasing the  
19 quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed by SNAP  
20 families, as determined by customer surveys.

21 (h) ~~The No later than December 31, 2017,~~ the Department of  
22 Human Services shall adopt rules to implement the provisions  
23 of this Section.

24 (i) (Blank).

25 (Source: P.A. 99-928, eff. 1-20-17; 100-636, eff. 1-1-19.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,

HB4970

- 6 -

LRB102 24808 KTG 34053 b

1 2022.