Synopsis of Selected 2501 Projects for FY2017

(Organized by State)

Alabama

• Tuskegee University

- The overall goal for the one-year Tuskegee University Small Farmer Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance Project is to conduct outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDFs) to own and operate farms; and to provide information on loan applications and farmer programs. Some of the objectives include developing and implementing programs so that eligible SDFs may apply for and acquire farm ownership and operating loans; assisting SDFs in accessing the full range of USDA programs including equipment, livestock, housing, youth loans, and grants including cost-share and specialty crops; and developing and enhancing farm and business management and marketing skills. Additionally, special focus will address heir property and estate planning as well as the recruitment and support of new and beginning and established veteran farmers. Over its one-year program period, the Project will reach its objectives through recruitment, assessment, information dissemination, group meetings, quarterly conferences, and one-on-one farm visits, and evaluations.
- O Geographic Service Area: Through partnering with and accessing programs by state (Department of Agriculture and Industries, RC&D Councils) and federal (RMA, AMS, NIFA, RD, FSA, NRCS) agencies, the Project will serve the Black Belt and adjacent counties of South-central Alabama.
- o Contact Info: Robert Zabawa, PhD | <u>zabawar@mytu.tuskegee.edu</u> | (334) 727-8114

Arkansas

• University of Arkansas System (Pine Bluff)

- O The goal of this project is to help Socially Disadvantaged Producers (SDPs) and Veterans Producers (VPs) improve their profit margins. Producers in this area are livestock producers, row crop producers, and vegetable producers. The objectives of the project are: (1) to provide farm business training to SDPs and VPs; (2) to help SDPs and VPs use Extension recommendation to increase their yields; and (3) to helps SDPs and VPs use USDA Programs to improve their land. Many SDPs will request assistance with their USDA loan applications. This request will be met with farm business training to help producers make management decisions. Other SDPs and VPs will receive farm business training including financial analyses of their operation. Attendance at Extension production meetings are down, but SDPs and VPs attendance at meetings are basically non-existent. To get Extension recommendation to SDPs and VPs the staff will provide the recommendations to them, conduct production workshops, and encourage SDPs and VPs to attend all Extension production meetings.
- o Geographic Service Area: Eastern and Southwest Arkansas
- o Contact Info: Henry English | enhlishh@uapb.edu | (870) 575-7246

Arizona

• Developing Innovation in Navajo Education Inc.

- Developing Innovations in Navajo Education (Dine Inc.), an Arizona non-profit organization and New Mexico State University are collaborating on the *Native American Producers Success V (NAPS V) Project*. The project seeks to increase the profitability and sustainability of socially disadvantaged and veteran (SD&V) Navajo farmers and ranchers. Project activities include improving SD&V Navajo farming and ranching operations through (1) producer workshops, on-farm/on-ranch technical assistance and mentoring, (2) agriculture resource fairs featuring programs and services provided by USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RMA), BIA, Navajo Nation, Extension and other organizations (3) direct assistance to farmers and ranchers in completing BIA and NRCS conservation plans required for the issue of land use permits, (4) building the leadership and organizational capacity of the Navajo Farmer and Rancher Congress (NFRC), a producer advocacy group, and (5) working with Navajo schools (elementary, middle and high) to develop and implement gardening curriculum and establish school-based gardens and "farmers markets".
- Geographic Service Area: Coconino, Navajo and Apache in Arizona and San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties (New Mexico)
- o Contact Info: Kyril Calsoyas | kyrilcalsoyas@earthlink.net | (928) 714-9422

• Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community

- O The Program is intended to extend Nalwoodi Denzhone Community effort of providing community revitalization and educational services and on-going assistance to socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning farmers and ranchers in San Carlos Apache Nation, surrounding rural communities, and other Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes in Arizona. The Program will take holistic approaches to address all five priority areas identified by USDA. It will assist USDA's commitments to Tribal organizations with outreach and public education, business development and planning, grant writing, and sustainable farming and renewable energy technologies demonstration. In addition, the Program will particularly focus on promoting sustainable agriculture, local food, water education, and renewable energy. Innovative and effective outreach and technical assistance approach will be used to foster collaboration among USDA agencies, Native American Tribal entities, and the socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning farmers and ranchers in the communities.
- Geographic Service Area: Service areas are located in the Strike Force Counties of Gila, Graham, and Pinal, as well as other tribal communities in Arizona including those in "Persistent Poverty" counties.
- o Contact Info: Bryce Barnes| bryce.scti@gmail.com | (480) 734-5210

California

• California Farmlink

o This project will provide at least 150 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers with the support network necessary to operate a successful farm and ranch, with a focus on business ownership. California FarmLink and Kitchen Table Advisors will target Latino and monolingual Spanish-speaking farmers and other aspiring socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and provide them with the tools, training, education, and technical assistance they need to access capital, protect farm income and build farm business assets, with a focus

- on increasing their successful participation in USDA programs. At least 50 farmers will receive one-on-one technical assistance with bilingual project staff helping them understand USDA program options and establish plans to engage USDA and other sources of support in gaining access to loans, revenue protection, and conservation programs.
- Geographic Service Area: The project will serve a growing number of Latino and other socially disadvantaged farmers in the Central Coast, South Bay and Central Valley regions of California, with special consideration for Latino and other socially disadvantaged farmers operating in Fresno County, a Persistent Poverty County.
- o Contact Info: Reggie Knox | reggie@cafarmlink.org | (831) 425-0303

• National Hmong American Farmers, Inc.

- O This initiative targets socially disadvantaged and veteran Hmong farmers, originally from Laos, in California's Central Valley. These producers face enormous barriers in operating successful farms, in part due to their poverty and cultural and linguistic isolation. Strengthening the Bridge seeks to accomplish the following: 1) Identify the contributions and technical assistance needs of the Hmong farming community through an intensive needs assessment process, culminating in a professionally designed and written report; 2) inform Hmong farmers about and assist them in accessing USDA programs and services and applying for USDA programs; 3) Develop joint strategies with other groups representing socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers in the Central Valley; and 4) Enhance the ability of Hmong farmers to operate profitable farming operations through holding skill-building sessions at NHAF's 2016 conference and through direct assistance to at least 25 growers.
- o Geographic Service Area: California's Central Valley
- o **Contact Info:** Chukou Thao | cxthao05@gmail.com | (559) 313-3339

Florida

Florida International University

The Florida International University proposes the grant project entitled, "Veterans and Small Farmers Outreach and Assistance in South Florida," in collaboration with two Veterans Organizations and private farms, to serve a growing population of veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers (VSDF) in South Florida by helping them establish or sustain existing farm operations, conducting various face to face and virtual technical training, and networking with established farmers. The project aims to equip the above groups of individuals (with a special emphasis on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and homelessness) with necessary technical know-how, farm entrepreneurial skills, and most importantly, increased access to government assistance programs. The project will offer at least six short workshops and two day-long workshops, conduct 15 paid farm apprenticeships and managerial apprenticeships at private farms, offer online agricultural training courses (Massive Open Online Courses o MOOC), offer individualized consultation to at least 50 farmers applying for USDA loans and conservation subsidies, and organize conference trips for VSDF. The project has a wide support from the state and local USDA agencies, veterans and farmers' organizations, and experienced private and community farms. The project has the ability to increase the participation of veterans, beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers in the USDA programs and meet several of the priority areas of the FY2017 2501 Program.

- Geographic Service Area: South Florida
- o Contact Info: Mahadev G. Bhat | bhatm@fiu.edu | (305) 348-1210

Georgia

• Athens Land Trust, Inc.

- Athens Land Trust (ALT) has conducted outreach to socially disadvantaged (SD) producers in northeast Georgia since 2012, with an emphasis on African American, other ethnic minority, and refugee populations. These farmers face specific barriers, including lack of capital, lack of access to federal programs, and lack of access to direct markets. Many are also new or beginning farmers who lack access to land, or whose operations are smaller in size and sales compared to all farms. This project's goal is to increase the number of successful SD farmers and ranchers in northeast Georgia, strengthen the economic viability and sustainability of their operations, and increase their eligibility for and participation in USDA programs. Some of the programs objectives include promoting and support the implementation of conservation practices by SD farmers to increase the capacity and sustainability of their operations; and increasing market opportunities for participants by connecting them to markets identified and developed by ALT and its partners, including farmers markets and others.
- O Geographic Service Area: The project will target SD participants in 14 northeast Georgia counties: Clarke, Barrow, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton; and the StrikeForce counties of Taliaferro and Wilkes.
- o Contact Info: Stephanie Simmons | stephanie@athenslandtrust.org | (706) 613-0122

• Georgia Organics, Inc.

- Ocergia Organics and its partner, the Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network, will execute a dynamic outreach project to provide USDA program information, education on sustainable production practices, and new marketing opportunities to socially disadvantaged and veteran producers in South Georgia. Included with these efforts will be workshops, print and digital resources, instructional videos, and hands-on demonstration. The organization will create a suite of diverse and complementary training activities to offer appropriate technical assistance to agricultural communities in need. The short-term goals of this project are to enroll African-American and veteran producers in areas of extreme poverty in relevant and impactful USDA programs and to deliver intensive instruction on USDA Certified Organic production regulations and techniques in order to expand access to new markets. Long-term, this project will increase the viability and operational resilience of socially disadvantaged and veteran producers by connecting them to USDA support, sharing sustainable agricultural practices to conserve natural resources, and developing collective marketing opportunities focused on value-added peanuts, the primary commodity crop of the region.
- Geographic Service Area: In addition to former USDA StrikeForce counties across South Georgia, the geographic service area includes the following counties with entrenched poverty in Southwest Georgia: Baker, Clay, Calhoun, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, and Seminole.
- o Contact Info: Perri Campis | perri@georgiaorganics.org | (404) 481-5004

• Golden Triangle RC&D

- This project will provide 2 demonstration workshops that will feature information on farm conservation planning, new and current USDA programs, heirs property, estate planning, credit counseling, and recordkeeping; launch an exceptional educational program empowering SDVFR's to steward their land more effectively which includes a six part course titled "Georgia Landowner Academy." Topics include recordkeeping, managing farming and forestry operations, taxes, and estate planning. Participants will receive information on heirs property and how owning heirs property can be a barrier to qualifying for programs to improve one's land. Participants will be offered free wills prepared by a licensed attorney. An introduction to the application process for USDA and NRCS programs is provided. Through these avenues of support, the course aims to empower landowners to make their land more profitable and sustainable; One-on-One time with a staff attorney(s) from the Heirs Property Law Center to begin the work of clearing titles in an effort to maintain land tenure and be able to participate in USDA programs.
- o Geographic Service Area: Southwest Georgia
- o Contact Info: Rhonda Gordon | rgordan@goldentrianglercd.org | (229) 723-3841

• Stag Vets Inc.

- o It's critical to replace Georgia's aging agriculture work force with trained farmers that have "book-learning", business and hands-on farm training. To attract young people and veterans into farming, we must show that farming is innovative and economically viable. The "High Yield-Small Acres Farm" proposes an Aquaponics/ Hydroponics System, with Hoop houses and other intensive growing systems, powered by solar energy on a "less than 5 acre farm". Small ruminants and other animals can be raised on this small farm. The workshops will include information on Agricultural "Best Management Practices" BMPs in Aquaponics/hydroponics systems, Hoop houses, and intensive growing systems, solar energy, processing and marketing value added vegetable and meat products, Agrieconomics, Record keeping, and Software Training (Excel & Quick Books).
- o Geographic Service Area: Underserved counties in Central and South Georgia
- o Contact Info: L. Jonathan Jackson | Jon@STAGVetsinc.org | (706) 577-9236

• University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

o The University of Georgia (UGA) *Farm Boot Camp* will offer a series of innovative workshops as well as provide ongoing one-on-one technical assistance for individuals living within a 100 mile radius of Tifton located in South Georgia. UGA's annex campus in Tifton is focused on agricultural and environmental research, outreach, and instruction. The *Farm Boot Camp* will emphasize training for beginner farmers with small to mid-size operations living in rural area counties with high rates of poverty. Targeted populations will include military Veterans and African Americans living in South Georgia and tip of North Florida. Within this area there are 2,180 African American farm operators and 98,324 Veterans. The project brings together community, agency and academic experts to teach workshops and provide on-going technical assistance on a wide range of topics that are designed to increase the likelihood of success for socially disadvantaged farmers and military Veterans to be successful in agriculture. Innovative workshops will utilize immersive learning exercises. Participants will take new knowledge obtained and apply it through hands-on simulation

- activities. Topics include: Tractor Clinic, Soil 101, Selling at the Farmer's Market, USDA Loan Overview (with farmer panel), and Growing Organically.
- o Geographic Service Area: Individuals living within a 100 mile radius of Tifton, Georgia.
- O Contact Info: Dr. Glen Rains | grains@uga.edu | (229) 386-3520 Rebecca Brightwell | rebeccabrightwell@uga.edu | (706) 542-6061

Hawaii

• The Kohala Center

- O The Kohala Center plans to provide socially-disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SD-VFR) across rural Hawaii with technical assistance in agricultural business development, and to expose young adults on Hawaii Island to agriculture and related career opportunities. Individualized (minimum 40 individuals) and group (minimum 75 individuals) technical assistance activities will focus on business and market planning, production planning, financial literacy and accounting, farm and ranch capitalization and risk management strategies, natural and agricultural resource conservation practices, and familiarization with and access to USDA grant and loan programs. An agricultural education program will provide 18 SD youth with hands-on experience in agricultural production and knowledge of farm and ranch career opportunities. The long-term project goal is to enhance the capabilities of Hawaii's existing SD-VFRs to own and manage viable and sustainable agricultural operations, recruit new SD-VFRs into the profession, facilitate rural community economic development, and increase island food self-reliance.
- o Geographic Service Area: State of Hawaii
- o Contact Info: Anna-Lisa Okoye | <u>aokoye@kohalacenter.org</u> | (808) 887-6411

Iowa

• Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.

- O This proposal seeks to grow the profitability of sustainably-managed farming businesses owned and operated by beginning farmers who previously farmed in their home countries before being resettled in Central Iowa as refugees. The project will help aspiring and existing refugee farmers improve upon their businesses through: 1) increased participation in USDA programs including the Farm Service Agency microloan program, the EQIP conservation program, and the USDA Census of Agriculture as well as other programs USDA staff find are applicable based upon what more they learn about our farmers and their stages of development through USDA presentations and outreach with Global Greens farmers; 2) through educational activities and workshops that build relationships between refugee farmers and USDA' local, state, regional and national offices, and 3) through innovative training and technical assistance that introduces linguistically and culturally appropriate agriculture-related information to refugee farmers. Primary beneficiaries are 23 refugee farmers in Central Iowa.
- o Geographic Service Area: Polk County, Iowa
- o Contact Info: Nicholas Wuertz | nicholas.wuertz@LSIowa.org | (515) 271-7443

Kentucky

• Kentucky State University

- o Kentucky State University's (KSU) one-on-one outreach and technical assistance will be provided by seven KSU Area/County Small Farm Agents, one Small Farm Assistance professional, one Small Farm paraprofessional, a Project Manager, and a Project Director. They will recruit farmers to participate in USDA programs and provide one-on-one technical assistance and mentoring during the USDA application processes, including transporting and introducing farmers to USDA professionals, completing applications, monitoring, and evaluating the approved practices. They will recruit farmers for KSU's Third Thursday Thing monthly workshops, KSU's Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference, SAWG tour, and other activities. They will assist farmers with applications and implementation of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy grants and the KSU Small Farm Development Grants program (for aquaculture, organic production, and value-added projects).
- o **Geographic Service Area:** Kentucky statewide, including all of Kentucky's Promise Zone counties and many of Kentucky's Strike Force Zone counties.
- o Contact Info: Marion Simon | marion.simon@kysu.edu | (502) 316-5423

Louisiana

• Southern University Agricultural & Mechanical College

- The overriding goal of the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute is to promote small and family farm sustainability through enhanced business management skills, leadership development and the utilization of USDA programs and services. This goal is and will continue to be achieved by helping farmers become better leaders while enhancing their business and farm management skills. Class VII will be open to minority, socially disadvantaged and limited resource agricultural producers from each of the 18 states with an 1890 Land-grant university. Through a competitive process, 16 participants will be selected to enter into the Institute program. Training seminars, the primary mode of instruction, will be designed as highly interactive, experiential learning workshops. Participants will explore various seminar topics through group discussion, small and large group exercises, assessment tools, facilitator presentations, in-class exercises, pre / post seminar assignments and participant led discussions. The Institute's course of study will consist of training seminars, video lesson and study tours. As a result of this project, we expect a cadre of minority agricultural producers who are more informed, confident, capable and willing to assume leadership positions in their communities and the agricultural sector. It is anticipated that with the increased levels of confidence, self-esteem, knowledge and leadership skills, coupled with the enhanced farm / business management skills, the Institute participants will return to their farms and communities and share their knowledge and experiences with others. Additionally, we expect socially disadvantaged producers in Louisiana to be in a position to continue their agricultural enterprises due to increased participation in USDA programs.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** 1890 Land Grant Universities
- o Contact Info: Kelli O. Hollins | kelli_hollins@suagcenter.com | (225) 205-0569

Maryland

• University of Maryland Eastern Shore

- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is seeking to establish a partnership agreement with USDA-OAO to implement a project entitled "Improving Farmers Access to Resources and Management Solutions (IFARMS) for socially disadvantaged (SDA) and limited-resource farmers and veterans in Southern Maryland and on the Delmarva Peninsula. The proposed project will build on the successes of a two-day farm conference program to feature educational opportunities that appeal to target audiences referenced above and SDA youth with the goal of attracting 150+ farmers and landowners. The momentum generated from this event will serve as a catalyst for follow-up educational workshops, on-farm demonstrations/tours, farmer mentoring, and other extracurricular activities that will strengthen SDA farmer's knowledge and skill-base in agricultural-related subjects associated with the production, business, and legal aspects of owning and managing a farm successfully, reaching an additional 100 farmer clients for a total of 250+ impacted over the course of a 1-year period.
- Geographic Service Area: Southern Maryland and Maryland's Eastern Shore
- o Contact Info: Berran L. Rogers | blrogers@umes.edu | (410) 651-6693

Michigan

• Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems

- Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) will assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDF) and farmer Veterans to own and successfully operate viable farms/ranches in Michigan by: 1) Enhancing and expanding two Multicultural Farmer Networks and one Farmer Veteran Network within Michigan that provide the support and education needed by SDF and farmer Veterans and ranchers to become successful agriculture entrepreneurs; 2) Updating MIFFS USDA Program & Application Guides that help SDF and Veterans enroll in USDA programs; 3) Using MIFFS Field Specialists to work one-on-one with SDF and Veterans to assist in navigating and applying for USDA programs; 4) Linking our USDA agency partners with our farmer and non-profit customers; 5) Updating MIFFS USDA resources website; 6) Planning, marketing and facilitating a statewide conference with 18 workshops (covering many of the USDA programs and services) where SDF/farmer Veterans come together to learn, share resources and network; and 7) Hosting four USDA workshops through webinars and in regional communities that are active within our Multicultural and Veteran Networks.
- o Geographic Service Area: State of Michigan
- o Contact Info: Jennifer Silveri | jen@miffs.org

Minnesota

• Hmong American Partnership

Advancing Hmong Agriculture (AHA) will focus on providing microenterprise loans in amount of \$500-\$20,000 to be used as working capital for expenses such as equipment, land leases and certifications for being able to sell produce at farmer's markets, schools, stores, etc. AHA's robust technical assistance will provide training classes, farm and ranch business plan development, credit counseling, credit builder loan services, post-loan retention services, assistance in securing additional loans, and on-on-one assistance. HAP is best equipped to further the USDA's goal of assisting socially disadvantaged Hmong farmers and

ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agriculture programs and services provided by the USDA. As the nation's leader in serving the Hmong community, HAP as the expertise lacking elsewhere in providing culturally and linguistically appropriate support and services to emerging farmers and ranchers.

- o Geographic Service Area: Twin Cities Metropolitan Region, Minnesota
- o Contact Info: Bao Vang | baov@hmong.org | (651) 495-1507

Mississippi

• Alliance of Sustainable Farms

- o The Alliance of Sustainable Farms (Alliance) and its partners are pleased to present this project proposal entitled: "Transition to Sustainability: Enhancing the Viability of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers". The project is designed to enhance the viability of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the provision of comprehensive statewide training, technical assistance, and support. Special emphasis will be placed on conducting hands-on field days/trainings; expanding networking opportunities; establishing quality mentoring relationships; and promoting the adoption of critical sustainable agricultural practices and appropriate technologies.
- o Geographic Service Area: Mississippi
- o Contact Info: Keith Benson | keithmdp@yahoo.com | (601) 988-4999

• Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

- The overall goal of the proposed project is to infuse technology, inform of USDA programs, and implement an educational outreach program to improve farm income for 150 socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and veterans and enhance their quality of life through better farm management practices, financial management, and marketing of a profitable mix of traditional and alternative enterprises production. The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives "Equipping, Enhancing, and Evolving through Training, Technical Assistance and Tools Project" will operate in eight counties (Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lincoln, Noxubee, Perry, Simpson, Quitman, and Rankin), where member-cooperatives and clients who are veteran farmers and ranchers are located.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** Eight Mississippi counties (Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lincoln, Noxubee, Perry, Simpson, Quitman, and Rankin)
- o Contact Info: Ben Burkett | benburkett601@gmail.com | (601) 310-5223

• Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance Inc.

The overall goal of the proposed project is to empower small socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating sustainable farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agricultural programs and services provided by the United States Department of Agriculture at the local, state, regional and national offices. Therefore, 150 socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers and ranchers in five northeast Mississippi counties (Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Monroe, Oktibbeha) would be exposed to new knowledge of production practices and other agricultural-related information that will enable them to obtain, own and operate successful farms and ranches. They will build relationships, be exposed to available federal, state and local agricultural programs, learn

how to apply for such programs, and receive cutting edge agricultural-related information through innovative outreach and technical assistance programs.

- o Geographic Service Area: Northeast Mississippi
- o Contact Info: Carolyn Jones | mmfa@netzero.net | (662) 213-2433

Tougaloo College

- o The Tougaloo College Farm Aid Program aims provide comprehensive services to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers' (SDVFRs) residing in the Mississippi Delta. The geographical service area for the project is in the Mississippi Delta region and includes 13 underserved counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington, and Yazoo counties will also be part of the catchment area for the program. The project's overarching goals are to: (1) assist SDVFRs in owning and operating farms and ranches through increased participation in USDA programs and services; (2) demonstrate agriculture's connection to access to healthy food and community and economic development and (3) increase knowledge and awareness about the availability of USDA resources to SDVFR's. Training outreach services, assistance, training and advocacy, the project will be provided through the establishment, expansion, and utilization two primary mechanisms: three Agriculture Outreach and Advocacy (AOA) Centers (located in Quitman, Washington, and Yazoo Counties) and a Food Policy Council.
- Geographic Service Area: Mississippi Delta region that includes 13 underserved counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington, and Yazoo
- o Contact Info: Sandra C. Hayes | shayes@tougaloo.edu | (601) 977-6179

Missouri

• University of Missouri System

- The Missouri Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers project will assist enterprises in the farming and agribusiness sector. Many of these groups lack general farm management skills and knowledge of government agriculture programs. Consequently, MU Extension faculty will scale up existing outreach programs and technical assistance resources to address the five priority areas using a linguistically appropriate multifaceted approach. MU Extension serves every county across the state, and is a partnership of the University of Missouri, a land-grant university, its campuses, Lincoln University, and Missourians through county extension councils. Over a 12 month period, Extension faculty will conduct eight workshops: seven English and one Hmong on "Understanding the ABCs of USDA Programs." We will also use the MU Extension developed "Grow Your Farm" (GYF) course designed for beginning farmers. Five GYF courses are planned across the state. A weeklong "Agroforestry Academy" will be offered to African, Hmong, Latino, Women, and Veterans to address ongoing challenges faced by beginning farmers. Pre- and post-measures in English and Hmong will be used to measure knowledge gained with anticipated change in behavior actions.
- o Geographic Service Area: State of Missouri
- o Contact Info: Karen Funkenbusch | funkenbuschk@missouri.edu | (573) 884-1268

Nebraska

• Center for Rural Affairs

- The Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) leads this project and has assisted beginning farmers for over 20 years. A focus on developing new Latino farmers started in 2011. We have helped new rural Latino farmers build their knowledge of farming/ranching components and awareness of USDA resources. More work is needed with increased interest from Latinos to start a farm or ranch, but little knowledge of production, financial practices, environmental information, or USDA programs is readily accessible. CFRA also recognizes the need to develop the next generation of Latino farmers. The Innovative Approach to Building Successful Latino-Owned Farms and Ranches project also addresses this need. The project is located in three rural Nebraska towns with high Latino populations; Lexington, Columbus, and Schuyler. Sixty adult Latino participants will improve their startup farm businesses with cultural, financial, production, and environmental training, including introduction to USDA resources. Classroom sessions, farm/ranch visits, visits to USDA field offices, and individual advising will be provided. Fifteen Latino beginners will develop business plans while four beginners will apply for USDA programs. Fifty Latino high school youth will learn key components of farm start-up including USDA resources. Ten students will work with a mentor Latino farmer; ten will develop a business plan and four apply for FSA's youth loan program.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** The project is located in three rural Nebraska towns with high Latino populations: Lexington, Columbus, and Schuyler.
- o Contact Info: Kathie Starkweather | <u>kathies@cfra.org</u> | (402) 617-7946

Nevada

• University of Nevada

- The project team lead out of the University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension is responding to this RFP to resubmit this proposal and offer over 85 years of valuable and extensive expertise in working with American Indian populations and proposes to hold 6 today educational workshops and one-on-one education, throughout the year, to producers in Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. The project team has assessed the needs of American Indians through the use of a variety of outreach and assistance methods and current requested an extension of time for a previous funded project that serves six Western States. Nevada is included in this project again because the previous scope of work has been completed and there are additional requests for services from American Indian tribes in Nevada. The Project Director is American Indian and lives on the Walker River Reservation within the project area. The project team is fluent in outreach and assistance models, works well with language barriers, and is connected professionally and socially on the majority of reservations within the project area. The project team will build upon their previously funded "American Indian Farmer and Rancher Outreach and Assistance Improvement Project" and the "American Indian Outreach and Assistant Project" to offer one-on-one outreach. Partnerships include tribes in the project area, USDA, Farm Service Agency, 1994 tribal colleges, the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Intertribal Agricultural Council, and Southwest Intertribal Agricultural Council.
- o Geographic Service Area: Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico
- o Contact Info: Staci Emm | emms@unce.unr.edu | (775) 945-3444

New Mexico

• Capacity Builders, Inc.

- o The Earth Mother Agricultural Initiative (*Earth Mother*) will provide outreach and assistance services for Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producers (SSDP) in the Navajo Nation (NN). Technical assistance will be provided to at least 55 SSDPs in the targeted rural service area. Technical assistance and other services will be offered in a group setting through bi-monthly workshops as well as one-on-one sessions targeted to meet the specific needs of individual SSDPs. Additionally, *Earth Mother* will include a Permaculture Component that is designed to give Navajo farmers and ranchers, assistance whereby they can profit on the "backside" of the year when farms and ranches are usually only incurring expenses. The goal of *Earth Mother* is to improve small farmer and rancher capacity and economic conditions through individual technical assistance and through workshops.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** The service region for this initiative represents 17 Chapters in the NN's eastern portion of the Shiprock Agency located primarily in San Juan County, NM.
- o Contact Info: Rachel Nawrocki | r.narwocki@grantwriters.net | (505) 326-4245

• Center of Southwest Culture, Inc.

- The Center of Southwest Culture's Cooperative Development Center (CODECE) "Connecting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers to USDA Programs" project seeks to outreach, educate and connect Hispanic and Indigenous farmers from New Mexico to pertinent USDA programs that will enhance their economic viability. The outreach and education activities will primarily take place in central and northern New Mexico. Moreover, most the farmers will come from the 10 farming cooperatives CODECE has launched in recent years. All 10 of these cooperatives are comprised of either Hispanic or Indigenous farmers and collectively employ approximately 50-72 farmers. CODECE believes that by connecting these farmers to appropriate USDA programs not only will they acquire a more secure economic future, but they will also be able to preserve their rapidly disappearing agrarian traditions and culture that has preserved their families for centuries. CODECE targets underserved New Mexican communities that are threatened by poverty and lack of economic opportunity, but have access to arable land and water rights. CODECE equips these communities with the necessary farming infrastructure, teaches them how to grow high yielding crops such as organic fruits and vegetables, links them to local and regional markets, connects them with essential resources and programs and provides them with a cooperative business model that is culturally relevant.
- o Geographic Service Area: Central and Northern New Mexico
- o Contact Info: Arturo Sandoval | vocesinc@gmail.com

• The Issachar Calling

o The Issachar Calling's main goals and mission is to provide quality education to our local communities in the areas of self-sustainability and health promotion. One very important aspect of self-sustainability and health promotion is educating our community through agricultural workshops, training, marketing tools; help lines, supplies, websites and demonstrations. We also strive to enable local farmers through providing them with free resources such as on site consultations, free trees, seedling, educational materials, greenhouse supplies, fertilizers, plants and seeds. In addition, we understand the growing

concerns of many local farmers and future farmers with the "Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill" which occurred August 5, 2015. After two years, many farmers continue to have concerns that their lands are still polluted. Part of our project entails testing soil samples and providing local disadvantaged farmers with exact data which will be analyzed by our soil science consultant, in regards to their farm lands. Based on the soil samples and data obtained, disadvantaged farmers will be able to have direct consultations with a soil expert and know what additives are needed for their soil in order to have successful crop productions and higher yields.

- Geographic Service Area: Residents in the communities of Shiprock, Fruitland, Waterflow, Kirtland and surrounding areas on the Navajo Reservation (New Mexico)
- o **Contact Info: Ann Tyler** | mrsatyler@gmail.com | 520-250-4140

New York

Center for Transformative Action

- O During the scope of this Project, stakeholders work with limited English proficient individuals to evaluate existing Groundswell and Cornell Small Farm's farmer training resources and 1) develop and deliver linguistically appropriate training resources to refugees and limited English proficient farmers. The Groundswell Incubator Farm Business Program will be customized to expand capacity and increase the impact of 2) providing affordable and low-risk access to land, infrastructure, equipment and training of socially disadvantaged aspiring farmers. Multiple outreach and engagement strategies will be utilized to expand the awareness of socially disadvantaged farmers about USDA programs so to 3) bridge the gap between USDA resources and socially disadvantaged and refugee farmers and contribute to their businesses success.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** Geographic Service Area of Central New York including counties of Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins and Onondaga.
- o Contact Info: Elizabeth Gabriel | elizabeth@groundswellcenter.org | 670-793-3383

North Carolina

• North Carolina A&T State University

The L.C. Cooper Jr. International Trade Center housed in the School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University serves a pivotal role in enabling the university to realize the tripartite mission of research, instruction and outreach in the service of small farmers, veteran farmers, and ranchers. The goal of the proposed work: "Outreach Assistance to Increase the Land Ownership of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, and Veteran Farmers; and Improved Management Practices," is to develop innovative farm business, production agriculture, farm safety and financial planning models to enhance socially disadvantaged farmers, veteran farmers, and ranchers in the in all rural communities of the Carolinas to access and retain land, increase their participation of USDA programs especially those with disabilities (physical, mental, etc.) so that they will be able to successfully continue to operate their farms and ranches. They will be also exposed to current production agriculture and marketing technologies to help them become successful agricultural entrepreneurs. Finally, the project also seeks to host information sharing conference to build relationship among these groups the staff from local, state, and national offices.

- o **Geographic Service Area:** North and South Carolina
- o Contact Info: Osei-Agyeman Yeboah | oyeboah@ncat.edu | (336) 285-4727

Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma intends to extend the reach of the USDA with the *Building Bridges through Agriculture Outreach and Education* project in Southeastern Oklahoma. The project has the potential impact of innovative training and technical assistance to 450 socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers, and 1200 socially disadvantaged youth, with the following project goals: 1) Increase knowledge and best practices through innovative training and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged, veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers; 2) Increase awareness of agriculture's relation to food systems through education programs to early childhood, middle school, and high school/early college students in 85 school districts across 11 counties; 3) Improve knowledge of U.S. agricultural commodities and growing cycles for Native American students at the Jones Academy residential school, Hartshorne, Oklahoma.
- O Geographic Service Area: The service area for the project includes the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Tribal Service Area, including the following counties: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha.
- O Contact Info: Nikki Schuth-Mitchell | nschuth@choctawnation.com | (508) 924-8280 ext. 2987

• Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Incorporated

- O The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project (OBHRPI) are partnering to increase participation of USDA programs in agriculture and conservation among socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDA). The focus of our project is to provide information, training, funding opportunities, and technical assistance to SDA producers. The project's focus is to build relationships between SDA producers, USDA, and Conservation Districts at the local, state, regional and national levels. Our belief is that by building relationships and cultivating leadership of SDA producers we can increase their knowledge of and participation in USDA programs.
- o **Geographic Service Area:** Eastern Oklahoma (Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, McCurtain, and Seminole) and one county in western Oklahoma (Caddo).
- o Contact Info: Sarah Blaney | sarahblaney@okconservation.org | 517-763-8609

• Oklahoma Women in Agriculture Association

OWIAA program will address needs such as: (1) ownership and operation of farms, lack of entrepreneurial development by socially disadvantaged famers and veterans; (2) increase the number of minority farmers to participate in OAO and USDA programs; (3) continue building relationships between socially disadvantaged farmers and OAO/USDA's local, state, regional and national agencies; and (4) provide innovative outreach and technical assistance in the following areas: value added products, direct marketing careers in agriculture rural and urban food production and availability, crop insurance, food safety, health and economic development.

- o Geographic Service Area: State of Oklahoma
- o Contact Info: Dr. Tammy Gray-Steele | womeninag@gmail.com | (405) 424-4623

Oregon

Oregon Food Bank, Inc.

- Oregon Food Bank will partner with Mudbone Grown to offer the Beginning Farmers of Color Apprenticeship Program in Portland, Oregon. The goal of this program is to support socially disadvantaged farmers in achieving financial independence through the creation and development of agricultural businesses. This program will train these farmers through comprehensive hands-on instruction and mentorship as well as provide technical assistance establishing and growing small agricultural business.
- o Geographic Service Area: Portland Metro Area
- o Contact Info: Christine Hadekel | chadekel@oregonfoodbank.org | (971) 230-1639

South Carolina

Center for Heirs Property

- The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation has a mission to protect heirs' property and promote the sustainable use of land to provide increased economic benefit to low-wealth landowners through education, legal services and forestry technical assistance. The Center is expanding its current work by proposing to conduct this Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance Project to reach more primarily low-wealth, rural, historically underserved African American landowners—farmers, ranchers and forest landowners, whom USDA categorizes as socially disadvantaged.
- O Geographic Service Area: The service area of the Project is a 12-county area located along the coast and inland of South Carolina with eight of the 12 counties designated as counties of "persistent poverty" by the USDA Economic Research Service—Allendale, Bamberg, Berkeley, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg.
- o Contact Info: Jennie Stephens | jstephens@heirsproperty.org

• SCF-Organic Farms, LTD.

SCF Organic Farms, Ltd" was incorporated as an organic farmer cooperative on August 15, 2005 with the secretary of state for South Carolina. Core Membership is comprised of socially disadvantaged producers comprised of 15 African Americans (8 male and7 female) from rural areas of Sumter, South Carolina. The governing board of the SCF Organic Farms, Ltd" is comprised of at least 100% percent minorities which constitutes being of a socially disadvantaged group. Our board of directors is comprised of 3 men and 2 women that are African-Americans. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd" has been an active and vital cooperative serving and educating the Sumter community for over 10 years. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd is a Non-Profit Cooperation in good standing with incorporation with the State of South Carolina. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd is registered with System Awards Management (Sam.gov). SCF Organic Farms, Ltd" is a cooperative of farmers with more than 60 years of combined farming experience, and the management of the cooperative has a combined 30 years of organizational and leadership experience in cooperative development. The Heritage Organic Farming Project 2017 mission is to educate farmers and customers about the benefits of vegetables and fruits grown with organic, heritage, dry-farming methods, and to

- increase production and consumption of that produce among farmers and customers of all income levels and increase the growth of new farmers in South Carolina and beyond.
- o Geographic Service Area: South Carolina
- o Contact Info: Fathiyyah Mustafa | azeezmustafa@yahoo.com | (803) 469-0116

Tennessee

• Tennessee State University

- The overall goals of Tennessee State University are to continue to identify, educate, train and assist (1) Tennessee's small, beginning and existing minority, veteran and women farmers managing their land sustainably and grow their production bases to increase their income; (2) Find, create and develop new and niche, markets and alternative markets; (3) Encourage farm growth by educating and training new and existing farmers and provide sponsorship to new and existing producers to attend the SAWG conferences; (4) increased participation in USDA Programs, through outreach and educational efforts. Proposal goals will continue to encourage and assist Tennessee's minority, veteran and women farmers and producers to operate presently owned farms more efficiently and/or purchase farmland and become successful farmers and producers.
- o Geographic Service Area: Nationally
- o Contact Info: Dr. Arvazena Clardy | aclardy@tnstate.edu | (615) 963-4887

Texas

• Gleaning Network of Texas (dba Grow North Texas)

- o Farming Success: Training & Technical Assistance for North Texas Producers provides needed educational opportunities and guided support for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in the North Texas area. The project will provide a multitude of workshops, webinars, and videos as well as targeted technical assistance for producers desiring to work towards their specific goals. Farming Success provides needed support for sustainable and organic direct-market farmers and ranchers wanting to increase their business viability, production knowledge, and sales channels. Current support for these targeted growers is sparse, with little specific production help for sustainable and organic production methods available for the North Texas area. The presence of direct-market farmers in this area continues to grow. With 6.6 million people in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, the opportunity for increased sales and market channels is also growing. Through traditional strategies like workshops and webinars and innovative strategies like one-to-one technical assistance and Facebook Live, this project will provide the education and tools necessary for socially disadvantaged and veteran
- o **Geographic Service Area:** Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex south to Temple, east to the Louisiana line, north to the Oklahoma state line, and then west to Gainesville.
- o Contact Info: Susan Marshall | susie@grownorthtexas.org | (972) 814-0928

• Hope for Small Farm Sustainability

The goal of Holistic Organic Product Education (H.O.P.E) for Small Farm Sustainability is to provide instructional and hands-on training assistance to 2501 farmers with minimum resources for starting and owning economically and ecologically sustainable farms. Program training will be delivered using culturally and linguistically appropriate material in

combination with hands-on training provided at the farmers site. The project is designed to expand outreach, participation and farm ownership by Hispanic, socially disadvantaged and veterans in USDA programs and serve as a catalyst for developing locally sustainable organic growers. The anticipated outcome is to assist 40-2501 owned farms to become GAP/GHP, and/or become organic certified.

- o **Geographic Service Area:** Lower Rio Grande Valley, in Harlingen, Texas and counties located along the Mexican border and designated as USDA StrikeForce Counties
- o Contact Info: Diana Garcia-Padilla | dianapgone@yahoo.com | (956) 412-4916

• Prairie View A&M University

- The aim of this project is to increase the number of socially disadvantaged farmers, veteran farmers, ranchers, families, and communities participating in USDA programs, Historically this segment of our population has not participated in USDA programs representative of their proportion of the population. The long term goal of this project is to enhance the profitability and sustainability of Socially Disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, families, and communities in Texas by helping them to learn how to access technical and financial assistance programs that are available to help them succeed. This goal will be accomplished through the following objectives: (1) To improve participation of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, families, and communities in USDA programs, (2) Expand our collaborative work to include the development of SDVFRs and minority WIAs (3) Build and enhance relationships between current and prospective socially disadvantaged, veteran, and women farmers and ranchers and USDA agencies at the local, state, regional, and national level, (4) Improve our working relationship with SDVFRs through effective partnering with CBOs and other socially active organizations to enhance effective partnerships. Our efforts will be concentrated in selected underserved counties in Texas where we have ongoing outreach efforts. Within the organization of our Cooperative Extension Program we will partner with our 4H, Community Economic Development, and Family and Consumer Science unity to do joint programs where appropriate.
- o Geographic Service Area: State of Texas
- o Contact Info: Nelson T. Daniels, PhD | ntdaniels@pvamu.edu | (936) 261-1689

• Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

- The purpose of this project is to educate socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and provide learning opportunities to young farmers and veterans through workshops, field days, in situ and online demonstrations, and the creation of work opportunities. Training and outreach activities are focused on crop production, irrigation and water management, livestock production, and marketing and business planning. Local farmers and ranchers will also be trained on how to successfully participate on USDA assistance programs. Bilingual educational materials will be developed to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers on their farm management decisions. This project is a collaborative effort between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research.
- o Geographic Service Area: Lower Grand Rio Valley Region, South Texas
- o Contact Info: Dr. Samuel Zapata | samuel.zapata@ag.tamu.edu | (956) 968-5581

Virginia

National Black Farmers Association Inc.

- Since its inception, the NBFA has been at the forefront of providing and promoting access to USDA programs and services. We have actively assisted in decreasing and reversing land losses and credit problems while improving the quality of economic life of farmers and ranchers across the United States. "Time To Get Growing" farmers outreach project expands knowledge, technical assistance and resources for food production to include not just staple foods, such as grains, but also fish, animals, forestry products, and horticulture. Secondly, we are creating a supply chain for agricultural products, from agricultural research, through production, processing, marketing, to consumption through business planning and marketing workshops. The project goal is to increase the number of new and beginning farmers as well as provide a safety net encouraging farmers to move away from production for production sake to responding to market signals of quality, quantity, timeliness, and price. The project will reach 10,000 community members via mailings, social media and website advertisements.
- o Geographic Service Area: National
- o Contact Info: Kara Boyd | NBFA.Kara@gmail.com | (804) 691-8528

• Virginia State University

- The goal of this project is to equip Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFR) in Virginia, with the tools and skills needed for them to make informed decisions in owning and operating profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. The supporting objectives are: 1) To create awareness and increase participation among SDVFR in USDA farm programs, and improve their access to timely agriculture-related information. 2) To enhance the knowledge and skills of SDVFR in farm estate, financial, and business planning and management, and in using computer as a management and resource tool. 3) To improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of SDVFR to own, retain, and operate sustainable and profitable farm businesses. 4) To increase profits for SDVFR by identifying new markets, connecting them to existing markets, and assisting them with effective marketing strategies. These farmer have been traditionally underserved and have been plagued by several barriers such as, limited access to credit and capital, lack of skills in business and financial planning, lack of knowledge of USDA programs and services, lack of skills in operating successful farm businesses and, limited access to new and existing markets. This project will address these barriers with a holistic approach, with the expected result of an improved quality of life of these farmers, their families, and communities.
- o Geographic Service Area: Northern Neck to Southside, Virginia
- o Contact Info: William Crutchfield | wcrutchfield@vsu.edu | (804) 524-3295

Washington

Grow Food dba Viva Farms

O Viva Farms; in partnership with the USDA 2501 Program, Washington State University, and Growing Veterans; will increase the economic viability of beginning socially disadvantaged and veteran producers with improved access to bilingual outreach and education in Washington State. Viva Farms and partners will lower the barriers for beginning socially disadvantaged and veteran producers in starting and operating economically viable farms through innovative bilingual outreach, training and technical assistance (TA) to include: workshops, accredited practicum, incubator program and 1:1 TA. We will develop and deliver bilingual agricultural outreach and education targeting socially disadvantaged youth, and facilitate partnerships between current or prospective beginning socially disadvantaged and veteran producers, USDA offices, Viva Farms, WSU and Growing Veterans (GV) that increases participation in USDA programs. Viva Farms is a non-profit organic farm business incubator established in 2009 to preserve sustainable farming, and create a strong and just local food economy. We provide comprehensive bilingual training in sustainable organic farming, and access to land, infrastructure, equipment, marketing and capital. Viva has educated over 700 small farmers (150+ Spanish speakers) in sustainable organic farming, and is currently incubating 18 independent farm businesses representing 30 farmers (9 are socially disadvantaged, and 1 is veteran owned). At the core of our training is an accredited three quarter practicum which offers a cohort real life experience in every aspect of a successful farming operation through a full farming season.

- o Geographic Service Area: Washington State
- o Contact Info: Michael Frazier | michael@vivafarms.org | (360) 969-7191

Wisconsin

- Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services, Inc.
 - o In the *Meeting the Needs of Diverse Populations at Midwestern Farming Conferences* project the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) will bring education about organic production and certification, sustainable farming practices, and USDA programs and services to over 300 socially disadvantaged farmers in Wis. and Minn., the majority of whom will be new and beginning farmers. We will provide education to beginning Hmong and Latino farmers through two primary venues: the 29th annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference, offering scholarships, translated workshop tracks, access to USDA staff and resources, as well as community meetings, and the 13th annual Emerging Farmers Conference (former Immigrant and Minority Farming Conference). We will also offer archived resources, including fact sheets, a farmers' market organic certification checklist, and workshop recordings in Hmong and Spanish. We will also translate and print our popular *Guidebook to Organic Certification* into Spanish.
 - o Geographic Service Area: State of Wisconsin
 - o Contact Info: Lauren Langworthy | <u>Lauren@mosesorganic.org</u> | (715) 778-5775