

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on June 30, 2019)

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

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

1 increased revenue for Illinois small farmers, and economic  
2 stimulus for the region.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (d) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human  
24 Services shall make an annual grant of \$500,000 from the Fund  
25 to a qualified Illinois non-profit organization or agency,  
26 which shall be distributed to participating Illinois farmers

1 markets for the purpose of providing matching dollar incentives  
2 (up to a specified amount) for the dollar value of SNAP  
3 benefits spent on FINI eligible fruits and vegetables at  
4 participating Illinois farmers markets and direct  
5 producer-to-consumer venues.

6 (e) The designated qualified non-profit organization or  
7 agency shall have a demonstrated track record of:

8 (1) building a statewide network;

9 (2) designing and implementing successful healthy food  
10 incentive programs that connect SNAP recipients with local  
11 producers;

12 (3) implementing funds distribution and reporting  
13 processes;

14 (4) providing training and technical assistance to  
15 farmers markets;

16 (5) conducting community outreach and data collection;  
17 and

18 (6) providing full accounting and administration of  
19 funds distributed to farmers markets.

20 (f) 100% of the moneys deposited into the Fund shall be  
21 distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets for  
22 healthy local food incentives.

23 (g) Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, the  
24 designated qualified non-profit organization or agency shall  
25 submit a progress report to the Department of Human Services.  
26 The progress report shall include the following information:

1           (1) the names and locations of Illinois farmers markets  
2           and direct producer-to-consumer venues that received funds  
3           distributed under the Program;

4           (2) the dollar amount of funds awarded to each  
5           participating Illinois farmers market and direct  
6           producer-to-consumer venue;

7           (3) the dollar amount of SNAP benefits, and funds  
8           provided under the Program, that were spent at Illinois  
9           farmers markets participating in the Program, as well as  
10          the dollar amount of any unspent funds available under the  
11          Program;

12          (4) the number of SNAP transactions carried out  
13          annually at participating Illinois farmers markets;

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

17          (h) No later than December 31, 2017, the Department of  
18          Human Services shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of  
19          this Section.

20          (i) (Blank). ~~This Section is repealed on June 30, 2019.~~

21          (Source: P.A. 99-928, eff. 1-20-17.)