



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB5615

by Rep. Sonya M. Harper

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.50

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that subject to appropriation, each municipality with a community or geographical area that is identified as a food desert by the Department of Public Health shall be eligible for grants from the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund. Provides that the grants shall not exceed \$500,000 for each municipality and that municipalities that receive grants shall distribute the grant money to persons or entities seeking to establish a business within the community or geographical area that is identified as a food desert for the purpose of selling or distributing fresh fruits and vegetables. Permits the Department of Human Services to adopt any rules necessary to implement the grant program. Effective immediately.

LRB100 19749 KTG 35023 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on June 30, 2019)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 (h-5) Subject to appropriation, each municipality with a
21 community or geographical area that is identified as a food
22 desert by the Department of Public Health in its annual report
23 required under Section 2310-22 of the Department of Public
24 Health Powers and Duties Law shall be eligible for grants from
25 the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund. Grants awarded under
26 this subsection shall not exceed \$500,000 for each

1 municipality. Municipalities that receive grants shall
2 distribute the grant money to persons or entities seeking to
3 establish a business within the community or geographical area
4 that is identified as a food desert for the purpose of selling
5 or distributing fresh fruits and vegetables. The Department may
6 adopt any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this
7 subsection.

8 (i) This Section is repealed on June 30, 2019.

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

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.