Connect, Build, and Invest in Local and Regional Food Systems

Regional Food Enterprise Centers Concept

Agricultural Marketing Service
Problem Statement

Small food and farm businesses, often working as part of short supply chains, lack sophistication and sufficient investment and coordination to exist and compete with large food businesses.

Concept

Foster competition through regional food enterprise centers

• Develop agreements with 7 Regional Food Enterprise Centers
• Eligible entities may include universities, non-profits, state agency, community development finance institutions
• Responsibilities:
  • Coordination
  • Technical assistance
  • Investment
1) Coordination

- Needs assessment
- Formalizing regional network of supply chain stakeholders
- Coordinating with USDA
- Collaborating with other Centers
2) Technical Assistance

- Grants to local organizations to provide technical assistance and value chain coordination support to farm and food businesses.
- Focused on business topics such as marketing, planning, finance and legal issues
3) Invest in local solutions

- Centers will fund small and mid-sized farm and food businesses focused on emerging needs of the region through a revolving loan fund and grants.
- Partner with lending institutions, such as CDFIs and development finance agencies.
Looking forward to your questions, ideas, concerns, thoughts!