

ASSEMBLY, No. 4997

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 24, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ALEX SAUICKIE

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Makes FY2025 supplemental appropriation of \$2 million from General Fund to Department of Agriculture in support of Northeast Organic Farming Association for certain programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A SUPPLEMENT to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, 2025, P.L.2024, c.22.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

6
7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2024, c.22,
8 the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30,
9 2025, there is appropriated from the General Fund the following
10 amount for the purposes specified:

11
12 **10 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
13 *40 Community Development and Environmental Management*
14 *49 Agricultural Resources, Planning, and Regulation*

15
16
17 **GRANTS-IN-AID**

18 05-3350 Food and Nutrition Services \$2,000,000
19 Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation,
20 Agricultural Resources, Planning, and Regulation \$2,000,000

21 ***Grants-in-Aid:***

22 05 Northeast Organic Farming Association of
23 New Jersey.....(\$2,000,000)
24

25 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
26 contrary, the amount hereinabove appropriated for the Northeast
27 Organic Farming Association of New Jersey shall be directly
28 distributed as follows: \$750,000 for grants for critical on-farm
29 infrastructure and farm viability projects; \$350,000 for an on-
30 farm processing and equipment lending program; \$300,000 for
31 value-added processing education and technical assistance
32 programs; \$300,000 for a Statewide bulk supplies purchasing
33 program; \$150,000 for technical support to organic, regenerative,
34 beginning and underserved farmers; \$100,000 for grant writing
35 education and technical assistance; and \$50,000 to provide
36 support for Hispanic farming communities.

37
38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
39
40

41 **STATEMENT**

42
43 This bill supplements the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act to
44 make an additional appropriation of \$2 million from the General
45 Fund to the Department of Agriculture, to be distributed to the
46 Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA NJ).

47 NOFA NJ is a Statewide organization serving organic,
48 regenerative, beginning, and underserved farmers in New Jersey,

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1 with programming and services that meet the community's needs.
2 NOFA NJ's work supports all farmers and participants in the food
3 system, increasing opportunities for collaboration and engagement
4 between a wide variety of stakeholders and producers.

5 The \$2 million supplemental appropriation is required to be used
6 for the following programs in the designated amounts:

- 7 • \$750,000 for mini-grants for critical on-farm infrastructure
8 and farm viability projects to continue a mini-grant program
9 established in February 2024;
- 10 • \$350,000 for an on-farm processing and equipment lending
11 program;
- 12 • \$300,000 for value-added processing education and
13 technical assistance programs to provide comprehensive
14 education and services such as product development,
15 marketing, labeling, profitability studies, food handling
16 hazard analysis, and miscellaneous technical support
17 services;
- 18 • \$300,000 for a Statewide bulk supplies purchasing program;
- 19 • \$150,000 to provide technical support to organic,
20 regenerative, beginning and underserved farmers;
- 21 • \$100,000 for grant writing education and technical
22 assistance; and
- 23 • \$50,000 to support Hispanic farming communities in the
24 State.