

**Appendix N**  
**Response to Public Submission Comment 2**



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

August 15, 2022

Ms. Maranda Raskin  
Policy Intern  
Farmers Market Coalition  
Post Office Box 6497  
Albany, California 94706

Dear Ms. Raskin:

Thank you for your letter dated July 26, 2022, regarding the use of the additional \$50 million for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) announced as part of the [Framework for Shoring Up the Food Supply Chain and Transforming the Food System to Be Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient](#). USDA is pleased to be able to invest a significant new influx of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, ARPA) to implement SFMNP initiatives to maintain and improve supply chain resiliency.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes SFMNP plays a critical role in our Nation's nutrition assistance safety net by providing participants the ability to purchase fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey through local, domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs (CSA). In addition, SFMNP is invaluable in increasing the consumption of American agricultural foods by expanding, developing, or aiding in the development and expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSAs. FNS supports the continuation and success of this important program, and we value your feedback as we work to consider how the additional SFMNP funds will be utilized for maximum effect.

The funds available through ARPA are separate and distinct from the annual grants given to SFMNP State agencies for normal program operations. USDA's FNS plans to make additional information related to this funding opportunity available to SFMNP State agencies soon.

Again, thank you for your letter and for the Farmers Market Coalition's ongoing support of SFMNP. Please share a copy of this letter with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary