



INCREASING LAND ACCESS, SECURITY, AND OPPORTUNITIES ACT

Strengthening land access, retention, and transition while improving access to capital and markets for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest owners

Background*

The Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (LCM), launched by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in August 2022 is the only USDA program that is designed from the ground up to be a flexible source of support and investment that meets farmers where they are and offers a menu of eligible activities—in support of increasing land, capital, and market access—to eligible entities already immersed in the farming communities they serve. An investment of this kind in secure access to land in the next farm bill will generate immense returns for taxpayers—increasing food access, strengthening local supply chains, growing rural economies, and building climate resilience.



H.R. 3995 / S. 2340*

The Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act would address the interrelated challenges of land access and tenure, as well as access to capital, markets, and technical assistance to help producers start and grow viable farm businesses, retain access to land, and transition land. The bill would authorize and expand USDA's Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program with appropriations of \$100 million per year.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, State and Tribal governments, non-profit service providers, community lending institutions, farmer cooperatives, and other eligible entities to strengthen land, capital, and market access outcomes for historically underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest owners and for producers operating in high-poverty areas.
- Provide funding for direct assistance and services to help farmers and ranchers afford and acquire land, cover closing costs and down payments, secure clear title on heirs' property farmland, capitalize infrastructure and site improvements, acquire business technical assistance and farm viability training, and other activities.
- Prioritize projects that provide direct financial assistance to producers, involve collaborative networks or partnerships, utilize innovative land access and farmland protection and affordability tools, facilitate transition of farmland from existing producers to the next generation, and incorporate other factors that will compound the program's impact.
- Establish a stakeholder committee to develop a process for evaluating applications and distributing funds to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of farmers and ranchers.



*This bipartisan initiative is led by Senator Tina Smith (D-MN), Representative Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), Zach Nunn (R-IA), Joe Courtney (D-CT), and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and the National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC). This one-pager's language was developed by NYFC. Contact: policy@landstewardshipproject.org

