The 2018 Farm Bill
What We Got and How We Got It

Ben Feldman,
Interim Executive Director
Farmers Market Coalition
About FMC

- 501c3 Non-Profit
- 12 years old
- 1,600 members representing ~ 4,500 farmers markets nationwide
- Mission “to strengthen farmers markets for the benefit of farmers, consumers, and communities.”
- Primary Activities
  - Training and Professional
  - Development for Market Managers
  - Consumer Education
  - Federal Policy Advocacy
2018 Farm Bill: The Big Question

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?
How We Got Here

- Dozens of Listening Sessions-2016-2018
- House Rs and Ds Can’t Agree
- Rs Introduce a Partisan Bill-May
- Internal R Immigration Disagreement Sinks Bill on Floor-May
- Senate Passes Strongly Bipartisan Bill-Early June
- House Rs Re-introduce and Pass-Late June
- Senate and House Unable to Agree
How We Got Here (cont)

- Farm Bill Expires - Sept 30th
- 2018 Midterm Elections - Nov
- House and Senate Agree, Pres Signs Bill - Dec 20th
Farm Bill Good News: FINI

- A big increase in funding: $250 million over the 5 years, this gets the program to permanent, baseline funding

- Includes funding for produce prescription grants through a separate application process.

- Simplifies Evaluation Requirements and creates “centers of excellence” to provide support and technical assistance
LAMP and Senior FMNP

- Combines the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP), and the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) to create the new Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) and gets baseline funding

- FMPP & LFPP applications now require a 25% match from the applicant

- Continued funding for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
Local Agriculture Marketing Program

- Combines the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP), and the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) to create the new Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) and gets baseline funding
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- Grants for Regional Partnerships
Senior FMNP and SNAP Language

- Continued funding for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Language directing USDA Food and Nutrition Service to allow farmers markets “to operate an individual electronic benefit transfer point of sale device at more than 1 location under the same supplemental nutrition assistance program authorization.”
Two Days Later: Government Shutdown

Politics is a wild ride!
Implementation: Good News

- Small changes to FMLFPP and FINI wouldn’t be a problem
- Shutdown and proposed NIFA relocation are bigger factors
- FMLFPP will be delayed
- Still likely the next round of FINI RFP will follow a similar timeline
Looking ahead to 2023: Building Relationships with
Thank You!

Ben Feldman

(510)393-5410

ben@farmersmarketcoalition.org