

Shapiro Administration Files Suit Against USDA Over Termination of FLPA Food Program

By Michael Ortoski / Food Operations Dir. at Mission of Love Food Hub

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro announced that his administration has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The suit alleges that the USDA unlawfully terminated Pennsylvania's Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) Program agreement, which is a \$13 million commitment that directly supports 189 Pennsylvania farms and supplies 14 food banks with fresh, locally grown food.

Locally Second Harvest located in BATH Pa. who services 7 counties in Pa. including Northampton, Lehigh and Monroe have been devastated over the termination of this program.

As a Food Operations Dir. at Mission of Love Food Hub in Bangor I was involved in the program for one year. As the only 'Food Hub' in the Slate Belt, Mission of Love Food Hub bought the most food product in the LFPA program in Northampton County \$350,000 through seven different farms in the program.

We service over 4000 families every week and fresh produce is always on the top of the list of requests from our community.

The FLPA program to me is a win/win situation with 50% benefit to the people in need of food and 50% to help small farms stay in business.

When the USDA abruptly terminated our agreement without cause, they ripped away a reliable source of income for 189 Pennsylvania farms — and cut off funding that would have helped provide over 4.4 million meals to families across the Commonwealth. That's not just bad policy — it's a broken promise. A deal is a deal, and I've taken legal action today to ensure the federal government honors its commitment to Pennsylvania," the governor added.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has administered more than \$28 million in federal LFPA funding, helping food banks reduce waste, distribute local produce, and strengthen the state's food system.

The most recent three-year contract, signed in December 2024, was abruptly canceled in March 2025 without explanation, Shapiro office says.

PDA pays vendors up front and is reimbursed by the federal government once expenses are incurred.

The lawsuit can be viewed in its entirety HERE <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/governor/documents/shapiro%20v.%20usda%20-%20complaint%20-%20exhibits.pdf>.



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