

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to request information on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s plan for the distribution of emergency assistance recently provided by Congress to address the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus.

On March 27th, 2020, H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES) Act was signed into law. This bipartisan \$2 trillion relief package is the third emergency spending bill passed by Congress to support and advance coronavirus response and recovery efforts across the country. While hopeful that these new resources will bring some relief to our families, small businesses, and hospitals, we now have the difficult task of ensuring that assistance reaches every one of our affected communities.

To make sure that Iowans are receiving the help that they need, I ask that you provide an overview of the resources under jurisdiction of the USDA. Specifically, I request that you provide the following information—

1. Briefly detail the different programs and accounts under your agency that received emergency supplemental for coronavirus response and recovery efforts in Iowa. For each program or account, include the following—
 - a. Information on how such funding will be distributed (formula, competitive, or otherwise);
 - b. The estimated allotment for the State of Iowa or its entities (if applicable);
 - c. The amount of any funding distributed to-date;
 - d. Any deadlines related to the successful receipt of those funds; and
 - e. The estimated award schedule for these funds.
2. Provide a point of contact, or points of contact, within your agency that my office can reach with questions about these resources.
3. Provide any additional information on funding and resources have been awarded to the State of Iowa for coronavirus response and recovery efforts as of April 1, 2020.

With the information we have requested above, my office hopes to provide Iowans with certainty and peace of mind that emergency assistance will reach our state. While we look forward to your reply, we strongly believe that the Administration should be proactively providing this information. To ensure oversight and transparency, my request today is a first step toward making sure this funding yields real relief for the American people.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your written reply. Please note that separate agencies under the purview of the USDA may reply separately to allow for this information to be shared as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please send an email to Abby.Finkenauer01@mail.house.gov. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to support our country through this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abby Finkenauer', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress