



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

July 24, 2024

The Honorable Paul Renner, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
The Office of the Speaker
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Renner:

The following is a report on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Healthy Food Financing Initiative as required by Florida Statutes, Section 500.81.

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) was established in 2016 to increase access to fresh produce and other nutritious food in underserved communities by providing financial assistance for the rehabilitation or expansion of independent grocery stores, supermarkets, community facilities, or other structures. The HFFI received an appropriation of \$500,000.00.

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 500.81(3)(b)(1), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services elected to contract with a qualified, Florida-based federally certified community development financial institution to administer the HFFI through a public-private partnership. After a competitive bidding process, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services selected the Florida Community Loan Fund to administer the HFFI. The contract for this agreement was executed on February 23, 2017.
- As of April 2020, the Florida Community Loan Fund has distributed the full appropriation amount of \$500,000.00 in HFFI funds for three total projects allowed by Florida Statutes, Section 500.81 and Chapter 5P-10, F.A.C.
- As of May 23, 2021, all three funded projects have been completed.

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- The Department recommends the Legislature repeal Florida Statutes, Section 500.81, as it has been deemed unnecessary and unused now that the funding has been fully distributed and the projects have been completed. The Department is considering a modernized program to increase access to fresh produce and other nutritious food in underserved communities.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 617-7427.

Sincerely,



Vianka Colin
Director

cc: Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

July 24, 2024

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
The Office of the President
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear President Passidomo:

The following is a report on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Healthy Food Financing Initiative as required by Florida Statutes, Section 500.81.

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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 617-7427.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vianka Colin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vianka Colin
Director

cc: Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture