A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. (1) There is hereby appropriated $40,000,000 from Federal Funds for FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes described in subsection (2) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

(2)(a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall create a program to award grants to nonprofit organizations in the following manner:

(i) $20,000,000 shall be awarded to nonprofit organizations that focus on food distribution in ten or more counties in the state and qualifies for The Emergency Food Assistance Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. Funds awarded pursuant to this subdivision shall be used for the purchase and distribution of food, infrastructure, and equipment and construction of increased capacity; and

(ii) $20,000,000 shall be awarded for regional or local capacity and food security innovation grants to decrease Nebraska's reliance on national supply chains, support local businesses, create local and regional economic resilience, encourage healthy eating habits, reduce food deserts, and support partnerships between local businesses and producers meeting the greatest needs statewide in the most efficient and sustainable manner.

(b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall:

(i) Create a process for soliciting, vetting, awarding, and monitoring grants; or

(ii) Contract with a third-party to solicit, vet, award, and monitor grants.

(c) The program created pursuant to this section shall be coordinated and administered in compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
Sec. 2. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.