SEC. 785. SECURING DISASTER FUNDING TO COVER THE COSTS OF COVID-19 RESPONSE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program under which the Secretary will, for purposes of providing temporary assistance to eligible entities to address and respond to the COVID-19 emergency within the food supply chain, make reimbursements to eligible entities for personal protective equipment purchased by such eligible entities for their employees and other costs incurred by such entities to respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

(2) PURPOSE AND USES OF ASSISTANCE.—An eligible entity that receives a payment under this section shall use the amounts received for the sole purpose of reimbursing such entity for the following...
costs with respect to preventing the spread of
COVID–19 among the employees of such entity:

   (A) Purchasing and decontaminating personal protective equipment.

   (B) Purchasing test kits or equipment to screen the body temperature of employees for the presence of COVID–19, disinfectant, sanitation systems, or hand washing stations.

   (C) Developing and disseminating educational materials relating to COVID–19 protective measures that are based upon guidance issued by Federal or State public health departments.

   (D) Providing other measures to protect workers against, or aid in preventing the spread of, COVID–19, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

   (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring to receive a reimbursement under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application in accordance with an application process established by the Secretary.

   (2) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROCESS.—In establishing the application process under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish a simplified, sepa-
rate application process for eligible entities requesting less than $15,000.

(3) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall provide grants under this subsection in the order in which the Secretary receives applications submitted under paragraph (1).

(4) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize applications from agricultural producers and processors.

(5) LIABILITY.—If an eligible entity sells any personal protective equipment for which reimbursement is received under this section, the eligible entity shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than $10,000.

(6) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount of reimbursement to a single eligible entity under this subsection shall not exceed $250,000.

(7) RESERVATION.—Of the amount made available for grants under this section, 10 percent shall be reserved for grants provided to beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or businesses.

(e) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use $500,000,000 to carry out this section.
(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVID–19 EMERGENCY.—The term “COVID–19 emergency” means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a small or midsized food processor or distributor (including a manufacturer, food hub, custom establishment, business cooperative, and food service provider) with fewer than 1,500 employees;

(B) a sole proprietor food business;

(C) a producer, an agricultural producer group, a producer cooperative, partnership, or a majority-controlled producer-based business venture (as defined in section 210A(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627e(a)));
(D) a farmers market;

(E) a farm labor contractor or farm worker organization; and

(F) such other similar entities, as determined by the Secretary.