USDA’s Farm to School Program: Opportunities for Faith-based and Neighborhood Organizations
Welcome!

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What is Farm To School?

Helps Child Nutrition Program operators:
• Serve meals that include local ingredients
• Provide agricultural and nutrition education
Why Farm to School?

• Supports a healthy diet
  • By improving the quality of food served
  • By increasing their consumption of the food served
  • By improving their knowledge and attitudes towards food and agriculture
Stronger Communities With Farm to School

Strengthen community food systems
• By geographically integrating food production, processing, distribution, and consumption
• By creating market opportunities for producers, processors, manufacturers, distributors, and other value-added operations
Child Nutrition Programs

- School Meals Programs
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Summer Food Service Program

Become a program operator! Visit:

www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/program-operator
www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/program-operator
Partners

- Faith-based organizations
- Non-profits that serve children or agricultural businesses
- Producers and other agricultural businesses
- Cooperative extension offices
- Teachers
- Parents
Educational Activities

- Gardening indoors or out
- Learning from producers at the farm or at school
- Taste-testing farm fresh foods
- Food preparation
- Integrated into curriculum
Serving Local Foods

• Local foods can span the tray
  • Produce
  • Proteins
  • Dairy
  • Grains

• Fresh and delicious
  • Scratch cooking
  • Customized recipes
  • Culturally appropriate meals
  • Locally processed, often minimally
Sourcing Local Food

- Straight from the producer
- Cooperatives and food hubs that sell for many producers
- Distributors that sell local and non-local foods
- Food processors
Edible Gardens

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – New York

• Serving Jamestown Public School District
• Indoor and outdoor gardening
• Serving foods grown in school meals
• With non-profits and university cooperative extension
Supporting Local Food

Brady Faith Center - New York

- Increase local sourcing at schools
- Needs assessment
- Training
- Service to students and families
- With social enterprise, schools, university, and food systems non-profit
Our 3 Pillars of Work:

1. Provide training and technical assistance to improve access to local foods in schools.

2. Conduct research and disseminate data on existing programs and opportunities for expansion.

3. Distribute grant funding to improve access to local foods in schools.
Farm to School Resources
Trainings

- Support producers, program operators, community partners, and tribal organizations
- Delivered through partners
Farm to School e-newsletter - The Dirt!

Delivered monthly, full of updates, webinar info, relevant news, and field notes.

More than 140,000 subscribers!

www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/e-letter-archive
Research
The 2023 Farm to School Census is open!

- Schools are asked about their farm to school activity in SY 2022-2023
- Survey links are sharable with partners who can provide data
- Visit the Census webpage for helpful resources, past Census results, and general information.

https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/census-partner-resources
The Farm to School Grant Program
Who is eligible as lead applicant?

- Schools and Institutions
- State agencies
- Local agencies
- Indian Tribal Organizations
- Agricultural Producers
- Group of Producers
- Non-Profit entities
Level One

- Small, low-stake activities at your organization
- USDA Website resources
  https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-school-resources
Level Two

- Partnering with an organization who is applying/received a Farm to School Grant

- Examples:
  - Allowing a school to use your space to create a community garden
Level Three

• Lead applicant for a Farm to School grant

• Different types of grant tracks:
  • Turnkey: Action Planning, Agricultural Education Curriculum, and Edible Garden
  • Implementation
# Grant Tracks

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Track</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turnkey</td>
<td>Three possible tracks: Action Planning, Agricultural Education Curriculum, and Edible Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Unique and innovative project, or a multifaceted project that incorporates one or more elements found in the Turnkey track</td>
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<td>State Agency</td>
<td>Specifically for State agencies looking to support farm to school efforts in their states</td>
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# Grant Tracks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Turnkey – Action Planning</td>
<td>Develop a Farm to School Action Plan to facilitate launching or scaling farm to school activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnkey – Agricultural Education</td>
<td>Plan, implement, and evaluate the integration of farm to school topics into school, childcare, and/or summer site curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnkey – Edible Garden</td>
<td>Plan, implement, and evaluate a food production operation that produces food for school, childcare, and/or summer site activities</td>
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Matching Funds

All applicants must show a match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost from non-federal sources.

**Sample Match**
- Grant Request: $100,000
- Match Amount: $35,000
- Total Project Cost: $135,000
- Match Percent: 26 percent (match ÷ total project cost)
- USDA Percent: 74 percent (grant request ÷ total project cost)
Questions and Discussion
Thank you!

FY 2024 Farm to School Grants

www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-school-grant-program
Apply by January 12, 2024

Contact us:
SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov

The Dirt: Farm to School e-Newsletter

www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/e-letter-archive
Subscribe today!