

Farm to School Grant Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

November 1, 2023

Grant Name: Farm to School Grant Program	
Agency: US Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Application Deadline: January 12, 2024	Max Award: \$500,000
<p>Description: The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and help connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts.</p>	
<p>Eligible Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools, including nonprofit private and charter schools, which operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) - Child care institutions, including non-school based institutions that have an agreement with the State agency to operate Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) - Summer sponsors, including non-school based institutions that have an agreement with the State agency to operate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) - State agencies - Local agencies - Indian Tribal Organizations - Agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers - Non-profit entities 	
<p>Eligible Projects: 'Farm to school' includes efforts that connect schools with local or regional farmers, food processors, and manufacturers in order to serve locally or regionally procured foods in school cafeterias.</p> <p>There are five tracks for the Farm to School Grant Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turnkey - Action Planning: Develop a Farm to School Action Plan to facilitate launching or scaling farm to school activities. - Turnkey - Edible Gardens: Plan, implement, and evaluate a food production operation that produces food for CNP operator activities. - Turnkey - Agricultural Education: Plan, implement, and evaluate the integration of farm to school topics into CNP sites' curriculum. - Implementation: Improve access to local foods in eligible CNP sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. - State Agency: Improve access to local foods in eligible CNP sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local sourcing and 	

agricultural education efforts.

For all tracks, if a proposal seeks to target specific schools or sites, the schools or sites discussed in the project proposal as benefiting from the project must participate in one or more of the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs).

Matching Grant Requirements: 25% matching requirement

New or Existing Program: Existing

Examples of Prior Award Recipients: In FY2023, Youngstown City School District received a \$94,644 Implementation grant. They will develop, implement, and evaluate a Farm to School Implementation Grant for its 13 schools. Through the collaboration of 3 district departments and a local partner we will create, engage families and students in hydroponic gardening at the school sites. Professional development for staff, an innovative curriculum and family events to taste the produce will be some of the strategies to create a thriving Farm to School program.

Tips for Being Competitive:

Applicants can receive up to 10 bonus points if they align with any of the racial equity priorities and organization type priorities below:

Racial Equity Priorities

- Applications from ITOs, or an entity led and/or staffed by American Indians and Alaska Natives and serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- Applications from organizations led and/or staffed by Black/African Americans and serving Black/African American communities.
- Applications from organizations led and/or staffed by people of color and serving communities of color.

Organization Type Priorities

- Applications that serve a high proportion of children (at least 40% or more) who are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- Applications from small-to medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- to medium-sized agricultural producers.
- Projects operating in and serving eligible CNP sites located in rural areas.

Labor Requirements: None stated

Partners Required: Partners are highly encouraged.

Agency Contact: Anna Arrowsmith Grant Officer, Grants and Fiscal Policy Division:
anna.arrowsmith@usda.gov

Upcoming Events: USDA hosted two webinars (listed below) and will post recordings and presentation slides [here](#).

- "Getting Familiar with the Fiscal Year 2024 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Request for Applications"
- "Getting your Grant Package Together"

Total Allocation: \$12 million

Anticipated Award Date: July 2024

How To Apply:

- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number through SAM.gov
- Register in SAM.gov and Grants.gov
- Submit your application to Grants.gov by 11:59pm ET on January 12, 2024.

Resources:

- [Program Page - USDA](#)
- [Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov](#)