

Local Foods, Lucas County

Connecting Farms, Health, and Community

USDA Farm to School Grants

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

Key Dates:

- *September 13, 2016:* Farm to School Grant Program FY 2017 RFA released.
- *December 8, 2016:* FY 2017 Farm to School Grant Program applications are due in grants.gov by 11:59 pm EST
- *May 2017:* Announce awards

Grant Types:

Planning Grant

What: organize efforts of schools just starting Farm to School, creation of Farm to School Action Plan

Who: PreK-12 School Food Authorities, non-profit private schools, charter schools, Indian tribal schools, others who participate in NSLP/BP, CACFP, SFSP

How Much: \$20-45k (25% matching funds required- cash or in kind)

Time period: activities must be completed within 18 months



Implementation Grant

What: help scale up or further develop existing Farm to School activities

Who: PreK-12 School Food Authorities, non-profit private schools, charter schools, Indian tribal schools, others who participate in NSLP/BP, CACFP, SFSP

How much: \$65-100k (25% matching funds required- cash or in kind)

Time period: 1-2 years (includes stand up activities, execution, close out activities)

Previous Planning grantees may apply, may be combined with Support Service application from partnering agency

Training Grant

What: support trainings to strengthen supply chains, provide technical assistance for procurement, food safety, culinary education, integration of agriculture based curriculum

Who: state and local agencies, tribal organizations, agriculture producers (or groups), non-profit entities (Cooperative Extension programs are not eligible)

How much: \$15-50k (25% matching funds required- cash or in kind)

How many are available: 1 national training grant, 7 regional or state training grants



Support Service Grant

What: further development of existing Farm to School initiatives, broad reaching support services

Who: state and local agencies, tribal organizations, agriculture producers (or groups), non-profit entities working with schools including Americorps, City Year

Partnering Schools: K-12 public, charter or private, but must participate in NSLP/BP, CACFP, SFSP

How much: \$65-100k (25% matching funds required- cash or in kind)

Time period: 1-2 years

Proposal should show support for procurement of local foods for school lunch/breakfast

How can grant money be used?

Suggested activities: action plan development, evaluation, menu audits, curriculum, professional development, improving infrastructure, promotional efforts

Allowable grant expenses: personnel, contractors, equipment* (including coolers, freezers, ovens, salad bars) and supplies (including kitchen tools, seeds, livestock), meeting expenses, travel and trainings, temporary structures like moveable greenhouses

*Equipment is not an allowable expense for Planning and Training Grants

Non-allowable grant expenses: land, buildings, construction of permanent structures, delivery costs

*No more than 10% of grant funds may be used for food. Acceptable food purchases include taste tests or promotional use.

How do we apply?

Grant applications must be submitted online via grants.gov. Mailed applications will not be accepted. Applications are reviewed on a national level in order to ensure geographical diversity and equitable treatment of urban, rural and tribal communities.

Application support materials:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fy17-farm-school-grant>

Request for Application:

<http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=288870>

Technical Support for grants.gov website:
800-518-4726 email: support@grants.gov

What other resources are available?

For questions pertaining to the USDA Farm to School Grant Program, please email farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

Contact your local OSU Extension office to schedule classroom programs on gardening and agriculture, nutrition, or local foods.

OSU Extension Lucas County
One Government Center Suite 550
Toledo, OH 43604 419-213-2008
Website: lucas.osu.edu/farm2school

Gardening/Agriculture: stone.91@osu.edu
FCS/Local Foods: powers-barker.1@osu.edu
SNAP-Ed nutrition: saggese.1@osu.edu



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Roger Rennekamp, Associate Dean and Director, Ohio State University Extension

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