

## **Guidance on Available Funding Sources to Support Farm-to-School Activities**

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Department) has prepared the following guidance on available funding sources for schools to support their Farm-to-School activities. This is not an exhaustive list. Please access the included links to find the most recent application period deadlines.

### **Federal Funding Sources**

#### **1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm-to-School Grant Program**

- **Summary:** Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) established a Farm-to-School Program in order to assist eligible entities (i.e. schools, school districts, agricultural producers, Indian tribal organizations, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and local agencies) through grants and technical assistance in implementing farm-to-school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools.
- **Link:** <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>
- **Eligible Applicants:**
  - Eligible schools
  - State and local agencies
  - Indian tribal organizations
  - Small and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small and medium-sized agricultural producers
  - Non-profit entities
- **Funding:**
  - **Planning and Training:** \$20,000 – \$50,000
  - **Implementation:** \$50,000 – \$100,000
  - 25% match

#### **2. USDA National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities**

- **Summary:** The purpose of Equipment Assistance Grants is to distribute funding allocations provided by the Agriculture Appropriations Act. State agencies competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible school food authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- **Link:** <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp-equipment-assistance-grants>
- **Eligible Applicants:** State agencies as a pass through to SFA.
- **Total Funding Available:** \$30,000,000

### **New York State Funding Sources**

#### **1. New York State (NYS) Farm-to-School Program**

- **Summary:** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched the NYS Farm-to-School Competitive Grants Program in 2015 to increase the purchase of local specialty crops by school districts and by individual schools, through developing existing strengths while building additional relationships between schools



and suppliers. The Farm-to-School Competitive Grants Program has grown from \$325,000 in 2015 to \$1,500,000 in 2019.

- Link: <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/rfps/rfp0189/rfp0189.pdf>
- Eligible Applicants:
  - K-12 SFA
  - Charter schools
  - Not-for-profit organizations
  - Indian tribal organizations
- Funding:
  - Last year awards ranged from \$25,000 to \$100,000
  - No match required.

## **2. Additional State Subsidy for Purchasing New York Food Products**

- Summary: School Food Authorities (SFA) that spend at least thirty percent of total food costs for the school lunch program on NYS farm products in the preceding school year are eligible for an additional state reimbursement.
- Link: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/additional-state-subsidy-purchasing-new-york-state-food-products?platform=hootsuite>
- Eligible Applicants: NYS SFA
- Funding: Increases the total state per lunch reimbursement to \$.25 per free and paid lunches and \$.50 per reduced lunch.

## **3. Equipment Funding for Schools Required to Implement a Breakfast After the Bell Program**

- Summary: Funds will allow eligible schools to purchase food service equipment that will assist in the implementation of a Breakfast After the Bell Program (BAB). This is one-time funding that was provided in the 2018 – 2019 school year. However, schools that did not receive the full entitlement of \$5,000 per eligible school in the 2018 – 2019 school year may still apply for funding if the school is required to implement a BAB program again in the 2019 – 2020 school year.
- Link: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/equipment-funding-required-breakfast-after-bell-program>
- Eligible Applicants: NYS SFA that are required to implement a BAB program.
- Funding: Up to \$5,000 per school building location.

## **Non-Governmental Funding Sources**

### **1. National Dairy Council – Product Research**

- Summary: Each year the National Dairy Council (NDC) seeks nutrition and product research pre-proposals that will further discoveries about and utilization of dairy foods and ingredients across the lifespan.
- Link: <http://researchsubmission.nationaldairycouncil.org/HowItWorks/Pages/FundingOpportunities.aspx>
- Eligible Applicants: Open to all.
- Funding: No stated limit.



## 2. **FarmOn! Foundation – Milk Money**

- **Summary:** FarmOn! #MilkMoney is a program that provides financial and technical assistance to schools interested in procuring local milk for their lunchrooms through a FarmOn! Foundation partnership with Hudson Valley Fresh Dairy Farms.
- **Link:** <http://farmon.org/milk-money/>
- **Eligible Applicants:** School districts
- **Funding:** \$0.05 per carton subsidy

## 3. **Action for Healthy Kids – School Breakfast Grants**

- **Summary:** Action for Healthy Kids has provided \$7.7 million in grants to schools since 2009 to help them accomplish their student wellness goals. The grants have helped buy kiosks to help increase student access to breakfast, therefore increasing participation.
- **Link:** <https://www.actionforhealthykids.org/school-grants-support/>
- **Eligible Applicants:** All schools
- **Funding:** \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000

## **Additional Resources**

### 1. **USDA Grant and Loan Flow Chart**

- An easy to follow resource of which opportunities are available to assist farm-to-school initiatives: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/f2s/GrantsAndLoans.pdf>

### 2. **Grant Writing Assistance**

#### i. **eXtension Foundation**

- Tips for writing successful grants: <https://articles.extension.org/pages/74060/tips-for-writing-successful-grants>

#### ii. **Foundation Center – GRANTSPACE**

- Proposal writing – Building the essential knowledge and skills to craft effective grant proposals: <https://grantspace.org/topics/proposal-writing/>

#### iii. **Center for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas – The Community Tool Box**

- Learn a Skill – Toolkits – Applying for grants: <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/applying-for-grants>

#### iv. **NIFA/USDA**

- Two-page bulleted list of tips for writing a successful grant application: <https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/General%20Grant%20Writing%20Tips%20for%20Success.pdf>

Please contact the Department's Division of Agricultural Development at (518) 457-7076 with any additional questions or comments.