



2022 New York State Farm to School Grant Program

RFP #0265

Addendum 1 Questions and Answers Issued November 29, 2021

**Please note that the questions that follow are taken verbatim from the emails received by the Department without editing.*

1.) I would like to inquire about the NY Farm to School Grant Program. I was looking for some information regarding what this entails and what is required for the program grant.

Answer: Information about the Farm to School Grant Opportunity, including a downloadable PDF, can be found on the Funding Opportunities section of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets website: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>

2.) Are we required to address all facets of the school meal programming i.e. school breakfast, lunch, snacks and summer meals?

A: Applicants should clearly describe their school meal programming and the anticipated increases in volume and variety of New York State products in those programs. Applicants do not have to participate in multiple meal programs, but will be evaluated on the projected increase in availability of New York Product and number of students educated about New York State product, which may increase with increased participation in school meal programming.

3.) Is the funding being awarded over a two-year period or is it per year? As an example, if an organization is funded at a level of \$100,000, will the organization receive \$100,000 each year or \$100,000 for two years (for project completion)?

Answer: Project funding is not tied to a specific year of the two-year grant term. An organization funded for \$100,000 has two years to complete the project and submit for reimbursement of the \$100,000. Funds are available on a reimbursement basis only, and applicants may submit receipts for reimbursement of eligible expenses within the contract term at any point after the contract is fully executed.

4.) Does the following grant apply to nonpublic schools?

Answer: Any school that is recognized by the New York State Department of Education as a School Food Authority (SFA) may apply for the grant.



5.) Do you have to participate in all of the school meal programs to qualify (i.e. breakfast, lunch, snack and summer meals)? Or can you participate in a few? (i.e we only participate in breakfast and lunch).

Answer: There is no requirement for the number of meal programs a school must participate in. Any school that is recognized by the New York State Department of Education as a School Food Authority (SFA) may apply for the grant.

6.) Can a nonprofit organization apply?

Answer: Yes, nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

7.) I help run a 501(c3) non profit community and farm organization, [Orkestai Farm](#). Are we eligible to apply for this grant and use the funds to grow food for our local school district? Or should the local school district apply for this grant instead? Or some other arrangement?

A: Yes, nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Please refer to the [Evaluation Factors](#) in the grant request for proposals to determine information you may need to obtain through partnerships with schools. Letters of support from partners are encouraged, but not required.

8.) I would like to participate in the Farm to School Grant Workshop and also have a question. The RFP says the program is for schools or non-profits serving K-12. Would a preK program be eligible?

Answer: A project serving only pre-K students is not eligible.

9.) We're a non-profit that builds hydroponic farm-classrooms in city schools where students study science and grow food throughout the school year. Would these farm-classrooms be considered farms for purposes of this funding opportunity?

Answer: Lettuce grown at a school in New York State does qualify as a New York farm product. If the lettuce increases the quantity and variety of New York farm products served in school meals, then this is an eligible project activity.

10.) My district has a lunch program but we do not have our own kitchens. Accordingly, we utilize a company that provides on-site warming ovens, refrigerators and freezers, so that the meals we purchase from them can be stored, heated, and served. Would we still qualify for this grant program based on the service provider meal plan that we provide?

Answer: The lack of kitchens and use of a food service company does not disqualify your school district. Any school that is recognized by the New York State Department of Education as a



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School Food Authority (SFA) may apply for the grant. Your application will need to detail how the volume and variety of New York farm products will be increased in the meals served.

11.) We have an existing Farm to school grant. This project has been extended to November of 2022 due to delay in awarding of funding money due to COVID, and because of that delay we have not had the time to utilize all the fund allocated from that grant for things such as equipment and trainings. My questions is with the extension of the existing grant would we still be able to apply for another round (Round 6) of the Farm to school grant?

Answer: Applicants may have Farm to School grant awards from previous years. Applicants should detail how the project is different and funded activities in this years' project should be distinct.

12.) I wished to ask for the clearer eligibility details regarding meals served. Does this grant only cover prepared meals served and eaten on site at school cafeterias, or would a school based, take-home raw produce distribution be applicable?

Answer: Eligible meals include those in the federal child nutrition programs: National school lunch program, school breakfast program, special milk program, or the summer food service program/ seamless summer option.