

Cohort 4 Track 1 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program

Request for Applications

Released for Applications:
October 1st, 2026

Applications Due:
by 5pm PT on December 31st, 2026
No late submissions accepted



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Inspection Services Division
Office of Farm to Fork
California Farm to School Program

Website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/caf2sgrant>
Email: cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov

Table of Contents

Public Input	3
Program Timeline.....	3
1.0 About the Program	3
1.1 Purpose	3
1.2 Definitions.....	4
1.3 Three Funding Tracks.....	10
1.4 Funding and Duration	12
1.5 Cost Share	13
1.6 Eligibility and Exclusions.....	13
1.7 Allowable and Unallowable Costs	15
1.7a Allowable and Unallowable Costs – Track 1The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant.....	15
1.8 Reporting and Evaluation	19
2.0 Additional Program Information.....	21
2.1 Tribal Communities.....	21
2.2 Previous Grant Recipients	21
3.0 Application, Review, and Notification.....	22
3.1 How to Apply	22
3.2 Grant Application and Review Criteria	22
3.3 Review Process	23
3.4 Notification and Feedback	24
3.5 Appeal rights	24
4.0 Assistance and Questions.....	25
5.0 CA Public Records Act.....	26
6.0 Other Grant Opportunities	26

Public Input

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) sought public comments about the DRAFT Farm to School Request for Applications (RFA) in August 2026. The CDFA considered comments received before finalizing this Farm to School RFA. Visit [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#) for a summary of anonymized public comments and the CDFA's responses.

Program Timeline

Please note the **estimated** program timeline below.

Cohort 4 CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program Timeline	
Public Comment Period	August 20 - September 11, 2026
CDFA Track 1 Q&A Zoom Sessions	Weekly on Thursdays
Application Materials Open	October - December 2026
CDFA Grant Application Technical Assistance Sessions	Weekly Until Application Materials Due
Application Materials Due	December 31, 2026 at 5PM PST
Application Review Process	January - March 2027
Award Notification and Announcement	March 2027
Agreements Finalized	March - June 2027
Implementation Begins	July 1, 2027
Grant Term Ends	March 30, 2029

1.0 About the Program

1.1 Purpose

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Cohort 4 2026 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program will award competitive grants to support projects that cultivate equity, nurture students, build climate resilience, and create scalable and sustainable change.

Funding Priorities: The California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program will award additional points during the grant review process for projects that:

- Engage students from [underserved communities](#)
- Include [small to midsize California food producers](#)
- Include [veteran California food producers](#), [socially disadvantaged California food producers](#), and/or [limited-resource farm households in California](#).
- Include California food producers who utilize [climate smart agriculture practices](#); [climate smart agriculture production systems](#) like certified organic or transitioning to certified

organic; or other [regenerative strategies](#) that increase resilience to climate change, improve the health of communities and soil, protect water and air quality, increase biodiversity, and help store carbon in the soil.

Please see the [Grant Application and Review Criteria](#) section for details about how the application and review criteria will address each of the funding priorities noted above.

Additional Priorities: The California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program will:

- Aim to distribute awards geographically across California to the extent possible
- Set aside up to 10% of all available grant funding for awards for California Native American Tribes, Tribal-based non-profit organizations, and eligible Tribal schools. To be eligible for set-aside funds, recipients must be listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), as stipulated in Proposition 4 California Climate Bond

The California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program is in alignment with California's report entitled [Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success](#), which highlights policy goals to advance child well-being, economic growth, environmental resilience, and racial equity through farm to school systems that connect children to locally sourced, whole foods and produce in cafeterias, classrooms, and gardens. The report and its recommendations are the result of a collaboration – led by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and CDFA Secretary Karen Ross – among a number of state agency leaders, education professionals, and farm to school experts and practitioners.

The California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program is also in alignment with the CDFA's [California Agricultural Vision](#) (Ag Vision), which serves as a roadmap for California agriculture. The goals of Ag Vision include better health and well-being, a healthier planet, ensuring thriving communities in the state, ensuring connections between farmers and the consuming public, and ensuring that a diverse set of agriculture entities are thriving.

1.2 Definitions

The definitions below are in alphabetical order.

California Grown or Produced, Whole or Minimally Processed Foods:

- **California Grown or Produced Foods:** Foods that are produced in California or harvested in its surface or coastal waters *AND* if minimally processed, then 100% processed in California.
- **Minimally Processed Foods:** Per the USDA, minimal processing may include: (a) those traditional processes used to make food edible or to preserve it or to make it safe for human consumption, e.g., smoking, roasting, freezing, drying, and fermenting, or (b) those physical processes that do not fundamentally alter the raw product or that only separate a whole, intact food into component parts, e.g., grinding meat, separating eggs into albumen and yolk, and pressing fruits to produce juices.
 - CDFA staff intend to convene a working group to work out the detailed parameters for “minimally processed” food products that this grant program may fund and to collaboratively develop an allowable foods resource list for grant recipients. Please

note that although the following products may not fit the USDA definition of *minimally processed*, they are allowable purchases through this grant program and the CDFA intends to collaborate with the working group mentioned above to determine if there should be any additional parameters around these foods:

- Yogurt and cheese dairy products that are 100% produced, processed, and manufactured in California are allowable. Please note that California produced fluid milk is unallowable.
- CA produced, processed, and manufactured whole or minimally processed plant-based fluid milk substitutes are allowable. Plant-based yogurt and cheese substitutes may be allowable on a case-by-case basis.
- Whole grain-rich flours and other whole grain-rich products that are 100% grown, milled, processed, and manufactured in California are allowable. In alignment with the USDA, whole grain-rich means that at least 50 to 100% of the grains in the product are whole grains, and the remaining grain, if any, must be enriched.
- Meat, poultry and seafood products that consist of 100% California raised meat, poultry, and seafood that include no more additional ingredients than salt and pepper, and that if minimally processed (e.g., ground, frozen, dried, smoked, roasted), are 100% processed in California are allowable.
 - If the product arrives pre-cooked (e.g., a pre-cooked ground beef patty), then this *may* be allowable if the pre-cooking also occurred in California and pending a reasonable justification from the grant recipient to explain why it is necessary to purchase a pre-cooked rather than raw product; allowability is subject to CDFA approval.
 - If the product includes supplemental ingredients (e.g., spices), then the CDFA will consider such products on a case-by-case basis and allowability is subject to CDFA approval. Such products *may* be allowable if the primary ingredient is the 100% California raised meat, poultry, or seafood if the supplemental ingredients are not synthetic additives or preservatives, if the supplemental ingredients could potentially be found in a home kitchen, and if the product manufacturing occurred in California.
- CA produced, processed, and manufactured whole or minimally processed plant-based proteins that include no more additional ingredients than salt and pepper are allowable.
- NOTE: Please note that CDFA staff will work with grant recipients to identify food products that meet the grant program values of “California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed” foods and will review every food procurement purchase made with grant funds to make sure it is in alignment with these values.
- NOTE: If a minimally processed fruit or vegetable (e.g., a dried, frozen, or pressed-into-juice fruit or vegetable) includes additional ingredients, then the CDFA will consider such products on a case-by-case basis and allowability is subject to CDFA approval.

Child Care Center:

This grant program defines California child care centers as those that:

- Are located in CA
- Provide care all or part of the day

- Are single-site or multi-site
- *Primarily* serve young children birth through age five (i.e., infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers); may also serve school-age children
- Are licensed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) OR meet appropriate criteria for a license exemption (e.g., a license-exempt Tribal child care center located on an Indian reservation)

Climate Smart Agriculture Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture Production Systems, or Other Regenerative Strategies:

Climate smart agriculture practices include those defined by [the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) Conservation Practice Standards \(CPS\)](#) and those identified by [The CDFA Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability \(OARS\)](#) via the [Healthy Soils Program \(HSP\)](#), [Alternative Manure Management Program \(AMMP\)](#), [Dairy Digester Research and Development Program \(DDRDP\)](#), and [State Water Enhancement and Efficiency Program \(SWEEP\)](#), including but not limited to cover cropping, no or reduced till, hedgerow plantings, compost application, and prescribed grazing. Climate smart agriculture production systems include certified organic or transitioning to certified organic. Other regenerative strategies include those that also increase resilience to climate change, improve the health of communities and soil, protect water and air quality, increase biodiversity, and help store carbon in the soil. Please note that a process is currently underway to [define regenerative agriculture for state policies and programs](#); once the definition is established, this grant program's definition of regenerative agriculture will align. Please note, while there are multiple definitions for Regenerative Agriculture, CDFA utilizes a framework approach to understand the topic. To read more, please visit [CDFA - Defining Regenerative Agriculture for State Policies and Programs](#).

ECE:

ECE is an acronym for Early Care and Education. The term ECE site refers to sites where early care and education occurs, i.e., child care centers; family child care homes; and license-exempt family, friend, or neighbor settings.

Educator:

A person who provides instruction or education; a teacher. A *credentialed* educator refers to a person who has a teaching credential (e.g., a California teaching credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing in order to be employed as an elementary or secondary public school teacher in a California public school).

Farm to ECE Technical Assistance (TA) Organization:

This program defines farm to ECE TA organizations as any of the following organizations that provide support to ECE providers in California:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors of Day Care Homes in CA or CACFP Sponsors of Child Care Centers in CA
- Child Care and Development Fund Tribal Lead Agencies in CA
- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies in CA
- First 5 county commissions in CA
- Head Start grantees in CA (i.e., an agency that is awarded funding by the Office of Head Start to provide or subcontract Head Start services in their area)
- Non-profit organizations, including agricultural industry non-profit organizations

- Tribal-based non-profit organizations
- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in CA
- University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and Cooperative Extension (UCCE) county offices
- Public universities in CA such as University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and community colleges
- California Native American Tribes
- County agencies in CA
- Local governments in CA
- California Agricultural Marketing Programs, listed [here](#)
- Projects with a non-profit fiscal sponsor
 - NOTE: Applicants must clearly identify the fiscal sponsor in the application. If awarded, the fiscal sponsor will be the grant recipient and will be responsible for executing the grant agreement and ensuring all project activities and costs follow grant requirements.
- The CDFA acknowledges that other types of organizations not listed above may operate as farm to ECE TA organizations. Beyond the list above, the CDFA will determine eligibility of farm to ECE TA organizations on an individual basis and encourages interested applicants to connect via email at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.

Farm to School:

While individual farm to school programs vary based on their unique vision, community, and geographic region, the CDFA broadly considers farm to school programs as combining: (1) schools and early care and education (ECE) programs buying California grown or produced foods from California food producers for school meal programs, and (2) hands-on food education opportunities that engage students and connect the classroom with the cafeteria, such as activities in school gardens, on farms, in culinary classes, in settings that celebrate traditional foodways and cultivate food sovereignty, and through other experiential learning pathways. Programs may include forest-to-school, river-to-school, and ocean-to-school.

Farm to School Technical Assistance (TA) Organization:

This program defines farm to school TA organizations as any of the following organizations that (a) have an established history supporting California School Food Authorities with implementing farm to school procurement programs; (b) have an established history supporting California educators with implementing hands-on food education programs in TK-12 settings; or (c) have an established history supporting California food producers and institutional food procurement:

- Non-profit organizations, including agricultural industry non-profit organizations
- Tribal-based non-profit organizations
- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in CA
- University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and Cooperative Extension (UCCE) county offices
- Public universities in CA such as University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and community colleges
- California Native American Tribes
- County agencies in CA
- Local governments in CA

- California Agricultural Marketing Programs, listed [here](#)
- Projects with a non-profit fiscal sponsor
 - NOTE: Applicants must clearly identify the fiscal sponsor in the application. If awarded, the fiscal sponsor will be the grant recipient and will be responsible for executing the grant agreement and ensuring all project activities and costs follow grant requirements.
- The CDFA acknowledges that other types of organizations not listed above may operate as farm to school TA organizations. Beyond the list above, the CDFA will determine eligibility of farm to school TA organizations on an individual basis and encourages interested applicants to connect via email at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.

Food Producer:

This grant program defines a California food producer as a person, group of individuals, non-profit organization, or California Native American Tribe that leases, rents, or owns land in California (whether the land is publicly owned, privately owned, or Tribal land) and cultivates crops, raises livestock, and/or uses Indigenous food production practices on this land, **and/or** a California seafood harvester. NOTE: this *does not* include school-operated gardens and school-operated farms; however, this *does* include third parties (such as individual contractors or non-profit organizations) that operate a farm on school property.

Hands-on Food Education:

Hands-on food education refers to activities in which students learn by doing and gain knowledge through experience. Hands-on food education may include but is not limited to: campus farmers markets, activities in school gardens, on school farms, in school greenhouses, in other food production environments, and in culinary classes; garden to cafeteria activities; experiential lessons celebrating traditional foodways and cultivating food sovereignty; cooking and tasting activities; food-based student internships; farm tours, field trips, or school visits from producers; student-led recipe creation; student-run farm/food stands featuring produce from school gardens/farms; or other transformative opportunities for students to better understand the relationships between food and the world around them. Please note that posters and marketing materials are *not* considered hands-on food education.

Limited-Resource Farm Households:

Per [the United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#), limited-resource farm households are those that, for two years in a row, have low farm sales and low household income, according to [this tool](#).

Public-Serving Aggregation and Distribution Enterprise:

Often called a “food hub,” a public-serving aggregation and distribution enterprise serves as a supply chain intermediary for local or regional farms or ranches, particularly those optimizing climate smart agriculture production practices or production systems, like certified organic or transitioning to certified organic, and following state labor practices. An eligible enterprise must prioritize to the greatest extent possible, but is not limited to, serving California farms or ranches that are 500 acres or less; cooperatively owned; or owned by farmers who are socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource, veterans, or disabled. This definition aligns with [California’s Farm to Community Food Hub Program \(Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1009, Chapter 608, Statutes of 2021\)](#). Additionally, within this grant program, an eligible enterprise must be able to

farm identify sourcing for 100% of products it sells to ensure state dollars support California farms and ranches.

NOTE: The CDFA acknowledges that a variety of types of organizations may operate as public-serving aggregation and distribution enterprises. In alignment with the definition above, the CDFA will determine eligibility of public-serving aggregation and distribution enterprises on an individual basis and encourages interested applicants to connect via email at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.

Scratch Cooking

The California Department of Education defines scratch cooking as the process of freshly preparing school meals onsite using whole, raw, or minimally processed ingredients. If one element of the meal is freshly prepared onsite, then the whole meal is considered freshly prepared.

School Food Authority (SFA):

Per [7 CFR 210.2](#), a California School Food Authority (SFA) is the governing body that is responsible for the administration of one or more schools in California and has the legal authority to operate the National School Lunch Program therein. An example of a School Food Authority is a public school district that operates the National School Lunch Program.

Small to Midsize Food Producers:

The California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program defines small to midsize food producers as those for which the average annual gross cash farm income during the previous three-year period is less than \$1 million. The Track 3 application uses a tiered scoring system to allocate more points for operations with less average annual gross cash farm income.

Socially Disadvantaged Food Producers:

A socially disadvantaged food producer means a food producer who is a member of a “socially disadvantaged group.” Per [California's Farmer Equity Act of 2017 \(Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1348\) Food and Agricultural Code section 510 et seq.](#), a “socially disadvantaged group” is a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. In accordance with AB 1348, these groups include all of the following: African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. In addition, the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program includes women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people as socially disadvantaged groups. Many groups have been “socially disadvantaged” within the agriculture industry, and the inclusion of such groups as enumerated above in this category is a reflection of that reality, and consistent with the objective of ensuring that these groups are included in the funding priorities of this Request for Applications.

Tribal-Based Nonprofit Organization

California-based nonprofit organizations with at least 50% of the Board of Directors and/or Leadership Team identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian and whose organizational mission or strategic plan expresses a commitment to serving and/or empowering California Native American Tribes or people.

Underserved Communities:

This grant program utilizes a few quantitative metrics to measure whether proposed projects will engage students from underserved communities. In the Track 1 application, the metric is the free and reduced-price meal eligibility rate of the school sites the project will serve. The tiered scoring system allocates more points for higher rates. In Track 2, applicants will propose metrics to determine need. The tiered scoring system again allocates more points for higher rates. This grant program also considers specific community needs through a question called “Making the Case” in Track 1 which prompts applicants to share specific challenges that their community faces. Specific challenges may include but are not limited to: food insecurity rate, child poverty rate, natural disasters such as wildfires and floods, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the school community, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 percentile, historical and/or systemic injustices, limited resources, limited access to affordable and nutritious food, rural locale, etc.

Veteran Food Producers:

Based on the first component of [the USDA](#) definition of a “veteran farmer or rancher,” the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program defines a veteran food producer as a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof, and was released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable. Please note that the full USDA definition requires that producers not only meet the first component noted above but also meet this second requirement: have not operated a farm or ranch, have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years, or first obtained veteran status during the most recent 10-year period. This second requirement does not apply to this program.

1.3 Three Funding Tracks

To support a systems approach to advancing farm to school throughout the state, the Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program offers three funding tracks.

Note: This document only contains detailed information regarding Track 1, the California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant. To find more information on Track 2 and Track 3, please refer to [the CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#).

- For full eligibility guidelines, see [Eligibility and Exclusions](#).
- To view examples of projects, please review the list of funded projects from the [2021 grant cycle](#), [2022 grant cycle](#), and [2023 grant cycle](#). If you still have questions about which track may best fit your project, please email us at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.

The CDFA welcomes projects that propose implementing new ideas and/or established ideas as long as projects align with the goals of the applicable funding track.

Track 1: The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant
Track 1 will fund individual public school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and Tribal schools in California that are a School Food Authority to establish new or expand existing farm to school programs that:

- (1) procure California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into school meals, especially from food producers that utilize climate smart agriculture practices or production systems like certified organic or transitioning to certified organic, small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and**
- (2) engage students in hands-on food education opportunities – especially standards-aligned and culturally relevant opportunities led by credentialed public school educators – that complement the school meal program’s California food procurement efforts; **and**
- (3) **OPTIONAL:** if desired, employ farm to school staff and/or offer farm to school professional development for staff.

Track 2: The California Farm to School Technical Assistance (TA) Subaward Grant

Track 2 will fund increased staff capacity, access, and resources by providing pass through funding for California School Food Authorities; California Early Care and Education (ECE) sites; California food producers; and California Native American Tribes, Tribal-based non-profit organizations, and eligible Tribal schools to implement resilient and sustainable farm to school programming.

Track 2 projects must have statewide reach and focus their pass-through funding in **one** of the following categories:

- Farm to School Procurement Readiness and Planning for SFAs
- Farm to School Standards Aligned Hands-on Food Education for SFAs
- Farm to School Readiness and Planning for Producers
- Tribal Farm to School
- Farm to Early Care and Education

Track 3: The California Farm to School Producer and Food Hubs Grant

Track 3 will fund California food producers and food hubs to increase production, processing, and/or distribution capacity to sell California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods to the California school food market.

To be eligible, an applicant must provide a letter of intent as evidence of an established relationship with each California School Food Authority to which they intend to sell food. Funding will prioritize small to midsize food producers and food hubs and food producers utilizing climate smart agriculture practices, climate smart agriculture production systems like certified organic or transitioning to certified organic, or other regenerative strategies. Funding will also prioritize food hubs procuring from the producers above.

Applicants may propose to use funds to:

- (1) purchase infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to increase production, processing, and/or distribution capacity to sell California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods to schools; **and/or**
- (2) purchase infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to establish or enhance the use of climate smart agriculture practices, production systems, and/or other regenerative strategies when producing California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods to sell to schools; **and/or**

- (3) cover staffing costs dedicated to farm to school activities; **and/or**
- (4) pursue certifications, licensures, or insurance that the applicant needs to sell California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods to schools; **and/or**
- (5) establish new or expand existing hands-on food education opportunities for students, School Food Authority staff that complement the applicant's existing or project-related California food sales to California schools, such as field trips, producer visits to the cafeteria or classroom, etc.

1.4 Funding and Duration

The California Budget Acts of 2025 and 2026 appropriated a combined \$40 million from the General Fund to the CDFA for the Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program. The CDFA will make up to \$38 million available for the three funding tracks outlined above. The amount of funds that the CDFA will award in each funding track will depend on the number of competitive applications that the CDFA receives in each funding track.

Funding Track	Funding Formula	Award Amount	Grant Term
Track 1: The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant	Project award amount for which applicants may apply = Total number of students your project will serve multiplied by \$15. NOTE: The award amount requested must fall between \$50,000 and \$1 million. If the product of your multiplication is less than \$50,000, please apply for \$50,000. If the product of your multiplication is more than \$1 million, please apply for \$1 million or less.	\$50,000 to \$750,000	Up to 18 months
Track 2: The California Farm to School Technical Assistance (TA) Subaward Grant	No funding formula. Track 2 applicants may apply for a set award amount dependent on Category. • Farm to School Procurement Readiness and Planning for SFAs: \$500k (2 awards) • Farm to School Standards Aligned Hands-on Food Education: \$500k (2 awards) • Farm to School Readiness and Planning for Producers: \$500k (up to 2 awards) • Farm to Early Care and Education: \$1.5 million • Tribal Farm to School: \$1 million	\$500k-\$1.5 million dependent on category	Up to 18 months

Track 3: The California Farm to School Producer and Food Hub Grant	No funding formula. Track 3 applicants may apply for between \$20,000 and \$200,000.	\$20,000 to \$200k	Up to 18 months
--	--	--------------------	-----------------

Additional Funding Details:

- The CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.
- **Grant recipients' projects may expend grant funds upon receipt of signed written agreement or at grant term start date and cannot expend grant funds after the grant term end date** [see [Program Timeline](#) for the grant term dates].
- **This grant program does NOT require Matching Funds.** The CDFA will fund up to 100% of the total project cost. See [Cost Share](#) for more details.
- See [Allowable and Unallowable Costs](#) for guidance regarding use of funds.
- **Payment Process:** This is a **Reimbursement Grant Program**. If awarded a grant, recipients will incur grant related costs and submit monthly or quarterly invoices to the CDFA to be reimbursed within 45 days after invoices are approved in most circumstances. The grant agreement must be fully executed (signed by both parties) before project activities begin.
 - Please note that **grant recipients may be eligible to receive Advance Payments** for project expenditures. Advance payments shall not exceed the amount necessary for project expenses for a three-month period and cannot reduce the project balance below 10% of the award amount. If eligible and approved for advance payment, recipients must follow the [Advance Payment regulations](#). Please note that [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 590](#) applies to recipients that are non-profit organizations.
- **Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions:** On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order [N-6-22](#) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. By submitting a proposal or application, the Applicant represents that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Applicant’s proposal/application any time prior to agreement execution, or, if determined after agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

1.5 Cost Share

The Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program requires no matching dollars.

1.6 Eligibility and Exclusions

The Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program is available to the entities described below. This RFA only outlines Track 1. If you have questions about eligibility or the

other tracks, please email cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov or review the [Farm to School Incubator Grant Program](#) website for Track 2 and Track 3 RFAs.

Please note that eligible entities must select **one** funding track and may submit **one** application.

However, eligible entities may be a project partner in multiple funding tracks. Also, eligible entities that submit one application as a lead applicant may be a project partner in other applications. Eligible entities that are a project partner in multiple tracks, or that are a lead applicant in one application and a project partner in another, must ensure that proposed projects are **not** duplicative and there is no duplication of project costs in order for the CDFA to consider each application.

Additionally, proposed projects may complement each other but should each be able to stand on their own in case one of the complementary projects receives funding but another does not.

1.6a Eligibility and Exclusions – Track 1

The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant

Who can Apply?	California public school district teams, county offices of education teams, charter school teams, and Tribal school teams (such as those administered through the Bureau of Indian Education) that are a <u>School Food Authority (SFA)</u> and self-operated currently operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
Additional Details	• Note about Tribal schools: The CDFA acknowledges that Tribal governments and Tribal-based non-profit organizations may operate school meal programs outside of traditional USDA school meal programs like the NSLP. If the eligibility cannot be met, the CDFA will determine eligibility of Tribal schools on an individual basis and encourages interested entities to connect via email at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov. • Note about charter schools: If a charter school that is an SFA is comprised of multiple charter school campuses, then the CDFA will consider the charter school as a <i>single</i> entity, not as multiple. If an eligible school district or county office of education is the SFA for a charter school, then the charter school may <i>not</i> apply but the school district or county office of education may include such schools in their proposed project if desired. • Note about identifying specific school sites: Please note that individual schools are <i>not</i> eligible to receive Track 1 funds, unless they are a single-site public school district, single-site charter school, or Tribal school that meets the Track 1 eligibility criteria. However, projects may focus on one or more specific school site within their SFA. • Note about School Food Authorities: Public school districts that serve as the School Food Authority (SFA) for multiple school districts, for a county office of education's school sites, and/or for charter schools may include those entities in their project if desired by including those school sites that the project will serve in their scope of work. Please note that a public school district that serves as the SFA for multiple entities and would like to include those entities in their project is still limited to submitting one application in Track 1. Additionally, the entities that are not SFAs

	themselves are <i>not</i> eligible to submit their own separate Track 1 applications. • Note about early care and education (ECE): The CDFA encourages applicants with preschool, transitional kindergarten, and/or Head Start programs to include those programs in their Track 1 project. • Private schools are <u>not</u> eligible to apply to Track 1. • Skip to next section of RFA: 1.7 Allowable and Unallowable Costs.
--	--

1.7 Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Please note that all costs must be **reasonable**. A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost.

This RFA outlines allowable and unallowable costs for Track 1. To find allowable and unallowable costs for other tracks, review the [Farm to School Incubator Grant Program](#) website for Track 2 and Track 3 RFAs.

1.7a Allowable and Unallowable Costs – Track 1

The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant

*Please note that SFAs have the flexibility to determine which of the following allowable costs they would like to incorporate into their proposed project. Track 1 projects are **required to use 20% of funds for school meal procurement costs under California food procurement costs and 20% of funds for hands-on food education costs**. In addition, all Track 1 projects must **both** (1) procure California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into school meals; **and** (2) engage students in hands-on food education opportunities that complement the school meal program's California food procurement efforts. All SFAs must demonstrate in the scope of work how both (1) and (2) are components of their proposed project.*

Track 1: Allowable Costs	
% of award	Description
20% minimum for school meals	CA Food Procurement Costs (for school meals and/or for student education): • For school meals: Procurement of source-identified California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods (from vendors including but not limited to food producers, distributors, food hubs, and school gardens/farms) for utilization in school meals (including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)). Grant recipients must follow USDA procurement and food safety regulations. • For student education: Procurement of California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for hands-on food education

Track 1: Allowable Costs	
% of award	Description
	opportunities that engage students. Activities may engage families of students as well.
20% minimum	Standards-Aligned Hands-On Food Education Costs: - Infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to engage students in hands-on food education opportunities that complement the school meal program's California food procurement efforts. Additional Details: - Grant recipients may use grant funds to develop <i>new</i> hands-on food education opportunities if they do not yet exist and to coordinate them with the school meal program. - Please refer to the hands-on food education definition in section 1.2 of this RFA for examples of hands-on food education opportunities. - The CDFA encourages evidence-based educational programming that connects with the school nutrition services program, welcomes innovative ideas for new educational programming that connects with the school nutrition services program and encourages evaluation of such new educational programming, and encourages the integration of hands-on food education across grade levels to promote sequential knowledge acquisition and skill building. - Grant recipients may engage families of students in hands-on food education opportunities. - Consumables, ingredients, and other items for hands-on food education that are not reusable are allowable (e.g., ingredients and utensils for taste tests or lessons). Ingredients that are <i>not</i> California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed are allowable on a case-by-case basis as supplies if used in a hands-on food education activity that <i>features</i> California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods (must demonstrate this in invoice submission). - Items for hands-on food education that are reusable are also allowable. - Refer to Sections 303(26), 324.1, and 324.2 of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations for a definition of equipment and guidance regarding equipment property records and disposition. Additionally, refer to Section 330.1(c)(1) of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations if equipment or infrastructure costs will benefit both grant project activities and non-grant project activities.
No cap	Farm to School Staff/Labor Costs: - Staff time associated with managing and implementing the farm to school project. - Labor costs associated with procuring, processing, and serving California grown or produced foods for utilization in school meals. Additional Details: - Staff costs may include a farm to school coordinator, FoodCorps service member(s), teacher stipends etc. - Teacher stipends may contribute to the 20% minimum of the budget needed under hands-on food education costs. - Labor costs may include paying school food service workers or other project participants who are employed by the grant recipient for their

Track 1: Allowable Costs	
% of award	Description
	time to participate in farm to school professional development (e.g., trainings, workshops, conferences). Applicants should acknowledge investments in staffing/labor in the Sustainability Plan section of the application.
No cap	School Kitchen Costs: - School kitchen infrastructure, equipment, and supplies to support utilization of California grown or produced foods in school meals. Additional Details: Examples: school kitchen vehicles that aid in delivery/distribution of California grown or produced foods; school kitchen cold storage, processing, and scratch cooking equipment to store, process, and scratch cook these foods; school kitchen equipment and supplies to conduct farm to school professional development / staff trainings - Refer to Sections 303(26), 324.1, and 324.2 of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations for a definition of equipment and guidance regarding equipment property records and disposition. Additionally, refer to Section 330.1(c)(1) of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations if equipment or infrastructure costs will benefit both grant project activities and non-grant project activities.
No cap	Travel Costs: - Costs for travel necessary for the performance of the grant award are allowable subject to Section 322 of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations (including but not limited to: field trips to or visits from farms or other food producers that grow or produce food for the school meal program, travel related to project collaboration and implementation, and travel to and from trainings that are necessary for the performance of the grant award). Additional Details: - Please note that reimbursement for travel within California shall not exceed the maximum allowable rates and amounts established by the California Department of Human Resources. - Travel costs may include transportation, lodging, and meals.
No cap	Contractual Costs: - Contractor or consultant services for the purpose of achieving the grant project objectives are allowable subject to Sections 319, 320.1, 320.2, and 320.3 of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations, select sections of which outlined below: 319.a The Recipient shall follow its own written procurement policy and procedures when procuring goods or services. 320.1b Contractor services must be for the purpose of achieving the grant award objectives. 320.1c Recipients are responsible for ensuring their contractors comply with grant program requirements. 320.1d Contracting out shall not affect the Recipient's overall responsibility for the management of the project, and the Recipient shall reserve sufficient rights and control to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities for the grant award.

Track 1: Allowable Costs	
% of award	Description
	○ 320.2 The Recipient shall have a written agreement with each contractor. At a minimum, the written agreement shall include identification of parties, beginning and ending dates of the contract, dollar amount of the contract, a description of activities, services, or deliverables to be performed, payment provisions, and grant program requirements with which the contractor must comply ○ 320.3 Contractor invoices shall include sufficient detail and information to allow a determination that the expenditures invoiced are necessary to the performance of the grant award, and reasonable and allowable. Invoices lacking sufficient detail may be disallowed. • A contractor is an entity that undertakes a contract to perform an activity. The term contractor includes consultants (e.g., farm to school curriculum consultants). Additional Details: • Contractor's name must be included in both the budget and the project team section of the application. If the contractor is unknown, applicant must state this in both the budget and scope of work. • Please note that recipients distributing funds to contractors must ensure that contractors follow all allowable and unallowable cost parameters of this program as well as financial reporting requirements such as documenting how they used the funds.
No cap	Other Costs: • Costs for the purpose of achieving the grant project objectives that the previous budget categories do not cover. Additional Details: • "Other Costs" include but are not limited to: - Registration fees for trainings and conferences - Stipends for individual project participants who are not employed by the grant recipient. - Mini grants - Publication and printing costs • Please note that mini grants may fit under Contractual Costs depending on an organization's internal procedures. Grant recipients distributing funds via mini grants must ensure that mini grant recipients follow all allowable and unallowable cost parameters of this program as well as financial reporting requirements such as documenting how they used the funds. • The CDFA may consider "Other Costs" not listed above that align with the funding purpose. Please email cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov to see if a cost may be allowable in this category.
As directed by CDE rate	Indirect Costs: • As defined in Section 303(a)(36) of the CDFA Grant Administration Regulations. • Applicants must comply with their CDE indirect rate.

Track 1: Unallowable Costs	
% of award	Description
0%	California produced fluid milk: The CDFA will not reimburse California produced fluid milk, as part of Track 1. Although they are important components of a healthy diet for California's school children and for our state economy, schools already procure these products from within the state.
0%	General CDFA unallowable costs: - Please refer to (1.b), (2), (3.a.iv), (6), (7), (9), (10), (13.b), (14), (17), (19), (22.b), (24), (26), and (27.a.ii) of the CDFA List of Allowable and Unallowable Items of Cost. - Please note the purchase of land is an unallowable cost for this grant.
0%	Consumables related to food production that are not reusable: For example, feed for animals or water for irrigation.
0%	Any costs incurred before or after the grant term.
0%	Any costs outside of the project scope. - Please note that prior approval from the CDFA is required for any changes to an approved project scope of work or budget once the agreement is fully executed. Failure to obtain prior written approval from the CDFA may result in disallowance of costs incurred. - CDFA requires applicants and grantees to implement projects with fidelity to their proposed scope of work, budget, and finalized grant agreement.

1.8 Reporting and Evaluation

The CDFA will require grant applicants of the Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program to complete the following application process and recipients to complete the following reporting and evaluation components. All reporting and evaluation is a required component of the Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program.

Application Interview	- Please see application information in Section 3.0, Application, Review, and Notification of this document. - The CDFA Farm to School Team may hold written or in person interviews with applicants of all tracks during the application review period, January-March 2027, if requested. The entire farm to school project team listed in the application will be required to participate in in-person interview requests. Any team member may be requested to submit a response during written interviews. Interviews will be used to clarify application question responses and will be considered in the scoring of the application questions addressed during the interview.
Pre-Survey & Intake Forms	Submit a pre-survey to the CDFA at the beginning of the grant term, after the grant agreement has been fully executed, to summarize and quantify pre-project farm to school activities.

	The pre-survey may request baseline metrics for Track 1 applicants including but not limited to: current California food procurement practices, and current hands-on food education impacts. Grantees will also submit intake forms within the first two quarters of the grant term.
Financial Reporting	Submit monthly or quarterly invoices to the CDFA (utilizing a template that the CDFA will provide) along with documentation to demonstrate proof of payment, detailing spending to be reimbursed for actual allowable costs incurred. If eligible and approved for an Advance Payment, submit financial reporting in accordance with Advance Payment regulations. - As part of the financial reporting process described above, when submitting California grown or produced food procurement costs, the CDFA will require grantees to submit a food procurement worksheet that includes a range of procurement metrics such as item name, item amount and cost, market channel, vendor name, name of farm or producer (if known), etc. - SFAs must verify with their vendor that each grant-funded item they include in their food procurement worksheet is California grown or produced and retain documentation on file of this verification. Verification documentation may include, but is not limited to: an indication of the food's farm origin on the invoice from the vendor or a written attestation from the vendor that the food is California grown or produced.
Farm-Level Data	Grantees must procure California grown or produced foods from vendors that can provide farm-level data by item purchased. Grantees procuring California grown or produced foods with grant funds must request farm-level data from vendors when completing the CDFA procurement metrics worksheets. Farm-level data refers to information such as the name of the farm that grew the crop and the county where they are located. If procuring through a distributor, aggregator, or other intermediary, then gathering farm-level data may require requesting velocity reports from these vendors. If an SFA verifies that an item is California grown but is unsure of the farm origin, then the recipient must provide justification of why farm-level data is unknown. Support with gathering farm-level data from vendors may be requested via email cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.
Quarterly Reporting & Annual Check Ins	Submit quarterly check-in surveys to the CDFA summarizing farm to school project progress, successes, and challenges. Quarterly reports must be submitted by the designated grant project lead. The quarterly check-in surveys may request metrics including but not limited to: California food procurement practices and hands-on food education impacts In addition to quarterly reporting, grantees will meet with regional staff at the beginning of the grant term, at the half-way point into the grant term, and at the end of the grant term for the final interview, described below.
Final Interview	Participate in a final interview with the CDFA after the grant term concludes to discuss project successes, challenges, and other relevant information.
Annual Procurement Check-in	Submit data to the CDFA annually regarding California food procurement practices for the duration of the grant and the following year after the end of the project term.

External Program Evaluation	Participate in external evaluation activities for the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program. A CDFA representative or external designee will work with grant recipients to address questions and gather necessary evaluation data. Program evaluation will demonstrate the impact of the grant program and will support efforts to develop future Farm to School Grant Programs.
------------------------------------	--

2.0 Additional Program Information

2.1 Tribal Communities

Please note the following and reach out to cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov with any questions:

- The 2025 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program will set aside up to 10% of all available grant funding for awards across the three funding tracks for California Native American Tribes, Tribal-based non-profit organizations, and eligible Tribal schools. Please note that the 10% set-aside is not a separate funding track. To be eligible for set-aside funds, recipients must be listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), as stipulated in Proposition 4.
- The CDFA encourages applications in all funding tracks from eligible entities in Tribal communities with projects related to forest-to-school, river-to-school, and/or ocean-to-school and projects that incorporate hands-on food education for students that revitalizes Indigenous intergenerational learning processes around traditional foodways and traditional ecological knowledge to support food security and food sovereignty for future generations.
- The CDFA encourages applications in Track 3 from eligible California food producers who use Indigenous food production practices.
- Please also see the funding priorities described in the [Purpose](#).
- Additionally, this grant program considers specific community needs through a question called “Making the Case” in Track 1 which prompts applicants to share specific challenges that their community faces. Specific challenges may include but are not limited to: food insecurity rate, child poverty rate, natural disasters such as wildfires and floods, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the school community, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 percentile, historical and/or systemic injustices, limited resources, limited access to affordable and nutritious food, rural locale, etc.
- For the 2023-24 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, the maximum indirect cost rate is up to 30% of direct costs. However, track 1 applicants must comply with their CDE indirect rate.
- Please see the [Assistance and Questions](#) section for information about:
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which will include questions and answers specifically related to applications from eligible entities in Tribal communities.
 - Eligible Tribal communities may request one on one technical assistance meetings in addition to the public Q&A zoom sessions

2.2 Previous Grant Recipients

If an entity previously received a grant award and entered into a grant agreement with the CDFA through the 2021, 2022, or 2023-24 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program (view

the list of [2021 grant recipients](#), [2022 grant recipients](#), and [2023-24 grant recipients](#)), please note the following:

- **Eligibility:** If the entity meets the eligibility criteria (see [Eligibility and Exclusions](#)), then it is eligible to apply. Please note that the CDFA will consider past performance in the grant program. Previous grant recipients must be up-to-date with all grant reporting requirements to be eligible for award consideration. Additionally, current grantees are required to complete their previous grant project before beginning their next grant project (i.e., no project overlap).
 - Finally, applicants must clearly describe how the proposed project will enhance or expand the existing or previous projects. The proposed project budget must reflect how the Cohort 4 grant funds will enhance or expand the existing or previous projects. Applicants may **not** apply to fund the same project activities that the 2021, 2022, and 2023 award is already funding during the overlapping grant time period (i.e., no double dipping).

Please note that all grant recipients must complete their project and spend their grant funds by the end of the grant term stated in their grant agreement.

3.0 Application, Review, and Notification

3.1 How to Apply

The CDFA will not accept late applications. Grant applicants must complete and submit via CDFA's online Grant Opportunity and Administration and Tracking System or GOATS. Creation of a new GOATS account is required [here](https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/login/) (applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/login/). Grant applicants must find the corresponding Funding Opportunity by searching for the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program and applying to the appropriate Track. Questions regarding applications or technical issues can be directed toward cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov with the subject line "Farm to School Incubator Grant Application – Track 1 Question". Applicants are encouraged to use the resources available from CDFA described in Section 3.0 Application Assistance and Questions.

3.2 Grant Application and Review Criteria

The application process for each funding track consists of one application phase. There is a separate set of application questions and review criteria for each track.

3.2a Grant Application Materials Guidelines and Criteria – Track 1

The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant (100 points available)

Applicants to Track 1 must complete an application containing the following components and may use the table below as an application checklist. Applicants must also complete a project budget and project scope of work as part of the application packet to exhibit how they plan utilize the funds if awarded. The technical review committee will score each Track 1 application as outlined below. View the detailed application questions and review criteria for Track 1 on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#). The following documents must be completed for a full application package:

- Track 1 Farm to School Incubator Grant Application Question Responses
- Track 1 Project Scope of Work
- Track 1 Project Budget

Track 1 – Application Sections	Points Available
Foundational Information	No points available
Project Team	No points available
Project Team + Organizational Commitment	10 points
Community Need	30 points
Farm to School History	5 points
Current Farm to School Practices	No points available
Project Title + Summary	No points available
Project Work Plan	30 points
Project Budget	20 points
Project Sustainability	5 points
Additional Applicant Information	No points available
Total	100 points

The CDFA Farm to School Team may hold virtual interviews as needed with applicants of all tracks during the application review period if requested. Reviewers may request interviews with any or all application team members. Interviews will be used to clarify application question responses and will be considered in the scoring of the application questions addressed during the interview. Any team member may be requested to respond during interviews.

3.3 Review Process

The CDFA will conduct an initial administrative review of applications to determine if they meet all eligibility and application requirements. During the administrative review, the following may result in disqualification of a grant application:

- Absence of a response to one or more required questions or an incomplete response to one or more required questions (view the detailed application questions and review criteria for each funding track on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#))
- Missing, blank, or unreadable content
- Requests for more than the maximum funding amount or less than the minimum award amount
- Applications that do not comply with the eligibility requirements for the applicable funding track, outlined in [Eligibility and Exclusions](#)
- Applications that do not comply with the allowable and unallowable costs for the applicable funding track, outlined in [Allowable and Unallowable Costs](#)
- Misrepresentations in the application

- Application materials submitted past the submission deadline.
- The entity does not agree to do all of the required reporting and evaluation activities for the applicable funding track if awarded a grant (see [Reporting and Evaluation](#))
- The entity submitted multiple applications
- The proposed project is duplicative of another proposed project (e.g., they each propose to fund the same costs and project activities for the same entities)
- The entity previously received a grant award through this grant program and their past performance is not acceptable and/or they are not up-to-date with all grant reporting requirements
 - Please note that the CDFA understands that factors beyond grant recipients' control may present challenges for project implementation and cause project delays
- The entity previously received a CA Farm to School Incubator Grant award and the proposed application duplicates project activities from previous grant cycles.

Applicants who receive a notice of disqualification from the CDFA as a result of the initial administrative review may appeal the disqualification (see [Appeal Rights](#)).

Applications that pass the initial administrative review will receive a technical review to evaluate the merits of the application. The technical review will utilize the review criteria on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#).

The CDFA reserves the right to ask applicants clarifying questions about their applications.

The CDFA reserves the right to utilize both technical review scores and alignment with program goals to determine awards.

The CDFA reserves the right to distribute awards geographically across California to the extent possible.

3.4 Notification and Feedback

The CDFA will notify all applicants via email regarding the status of their proposals.

- **Grant Applications Due:** December 31, 2026
- **Review Process:** January - March 2027
- **Award Notification and Announcement:** March 2027

Non-selected applicants may request feedback from the CDFA to identify the strengths and weaknesses of submitted applications. This information may be useful when preparing future grant proposals. The CDFA reserves the right to provide this feedback orally or in written format. Please note that in order to receive feedback, non-selected applicants must request feedback within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a notification about their grant application status from the CDFA. The CDFA will provide additional information about feedback requests to non-selected applicants in the grant notification email

3.5 Appeal rights

Any discretionary action taken by the Office of Farm to Fork may be appealed to the CDFA

Office of Hearings and Appeals within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a notice of disqualification from the CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the grant application or his/her authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the Office of Farm to Fork decision being challenged. The submission must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Suite 315, Sacramento, CA

95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be denied.

4.0 Assistance and Questions

Language Accessibility and Grant Writing Technical Assistance

Questions

During the application period, the CDFA will post Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#).

The CDFA cannot assist in the preparation of grant applications; however, for general assistance and questions related to the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program process, please contact the CDFA Office of Farm to Fork via email at cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov.

The CDFA Office of Farm to Fork will anonymize and summarize the questions and answers online on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#) on a weekly basis so that all potential SFAs may benefit from submitted questions and answers. To ensure a response from the CDFA, please submit questions by December 17, 2026.

Track 1 Info Session

At the beginning of the application period, the CDFA Office of Farm to Fork will host an info session via Zoom to provide an overview of the Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program. The CDFA Office of Farm to Fork will record this info session and post the recording on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#). To register for the info session, please follow the Zoom registration link below.

What	When	Where	Registration Link
Grant Info Session	{DATE}	Zoom	Registration Link

Q&A Zoom Sessions

During the application period, the CDFA Office of Farm to Fork will conduct a series of weekly Q&A Zoom Sessions about the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program Request for Applications. Eligible Tribal communities may request one on one technical assistance meetings in addition to the public Q&A zoom sessions. Each session will include time for questions and answers. They will occur on the following dates via Zoom. To register for each session, please follow the Zoom registration links below. The CDFA Office of Farm to Fork will record each

session and post the recording on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#).

What	When	Where	Registration Link
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here
Q&A Zoom Session	[DATE]	Zoom	Register here

NOTE: If, during the application period, if the CDFA adds Q&A Zoom Sessions beyond those listed above, the CDFA will post the dates and registration links on [the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program website](#).

5.0 CA Public Records Act

CA Public Records Act:

All grant applications and project information submitted by farm to school grant applicants and/or grant recipients to the CDFA is subject to public disclosure. The California Public Records Act states that every citizen has the right to inspect and/or obtain a copy of any public record [Government Code section 7920.000 et seq.]. The CDFA Legal Office shall determine if the public record requested is exempt from disclosure. Public records must be disclosed unless exempt under the Government Code or other applicable law.

CDFA Privacy Policy:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/privacy.html>

6.0 Other Grant Opportunities

For a comprehensive list of CDFA grant programs, please visit <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/>. For a complete list of California grant and loan programs, please visit the State Library's California Grants Portal: <https://www.grants.ca.gov/>.