



Cohort 4 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program Scoring Criteria – Track 1

Track 1: The California Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant

All questions require responses to be considered a complete application and to move on to technical review. The review criteria outlined below addresses scored questions the technical review committee will use when reviewing Track 1 applications. The review criteria also address questions that are not scored but do require specific responses for the application to move on to technical review

A note about interviews: The CDFA Farm to School Team may hold virtual interviews 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.

Section 1: Foundational Information

Not Scored

Section 2: Project Team

Not Scored

Section 3: Project Team and Organizational Commitment (10 Points)

- Q14 Describe how farm to school fits into your organization's existing goals and programming.
- Q15 How do the different roles on your farm to school team currently intersect and support one another? Please give an example of a recent collaborative effort.
- Q16 how is nutrition services connected to existing hands-on food education programming?
 - *Applicant's description of how farm to school fits into their organization's existing goals and programming, how roles intersect, and how nutrition services is connected to hands-on food education programming on a scale of 0-10. 10 point responses clearly answer all three questions, providing*

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thoughtful responses that display strong organizational commitment and team interconnectedness. 0 point responses are responses that do not answer the question in full.

Section 4: Community Need (30 Points)

- Q17 CDFA Data Look-up from the CDE (School Year 2024-25): The CDFA will look up the following data from the CDE. Applicants may skip this question.
 - Average free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) eligibility rate (%) across the school sites the project will serve. The CDFA will refer to the school sites listed above in #6 and to column V of the following spreadsheet (FRPM School-Level Data tab) to calculate this metric:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/documents/frpm2223.xlsx>
 - *Average free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) eligibility rate (%):*
 - *20 points: 90.1 to 100%*
 - *18 points: 80.1 to 90%*
 - *16 points: 70.1 to 80%*
 - *14 points: 60.1 to 70%*
 - *12 points: 50.1 to 60%*
 - *10 points: 40.1 to 50%*
 - *8 points: 30.1 to 40%*
 - *6 points: 20.1 to 30%*
 - *4 points: 10.1 to 20%*
 - *2 points: 1 to 10%*
 - *0 points: less than 1%*
- Q18 Making the Case: What challenges does your community face that aren't reflected in the data point from #17 above? NOTE: 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.
 - *Applicant's identification of challenges their community faces and demonstration that those challenges are significant on a scale of 0-10. 10 point responses are clear, include thoughtful, well-informed challenges and provide evidence of significance for each challenge mentioned. 0 point responses are responses that do not answer the question in full.*

Section 5: Farm to School History (5 Points)

- Q19 Please describe your district's farm to school history, including local procurement practices and hands-on food education practices.
 - *Applicant's description of their farm to school history on a scale of 0-5. 5 point responses fully describe their farm to school history, providing thoughtful responses that display a clear history of farm to school practices,*

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both in local procurement and hands-on food education. 0 point responses are responses that do not answer the question in full or display no history of farm to school.

Section 6: Project Title and Summary

Not Scored

Section 7: Project Workplan (30 Points)

- Q22 Are all project team members listed on at least one performance measure within the workplan?
 - *Yes: 5 points*
 - *No: 0 points*
- Goal 1: Local Food Procurement: Increase procurement of locally sourced whole or minimally processed products, especially products sourced from socially disadvantaged, small or midsize local farms, and producers using climate smart, organic, and regenerative agriculture practices.
 - *Applicant's description of how workplan activities and tasks will achieve goal 1 on a scale of 0-10. 10 point responses address all required performance measures; fill out all sections of the workplan completely; and provides a workplan that accurately addresses the goal, including plans to purchase products sourced from socially disadvantaged, small or midsize local farms, and producers using climate smart, organic, and regenerative agriculture practices farmers, is specific, achievable, and clear. 0 point responses do not address all required performance measures and do not include plans to purchase from socially disadvantaged, small or midsize local farms, and producers using climate smart, organic, and/or regenerative agriculture practices farmers.*
- Goal 2: Hands-On Food Education: Provide standards-aligned hands-on food education for students.
 - *Applicant's description of how workplan activities and tasks will achieve goal 2 on a scale of 0-10. 10 point responses address all required performance measures, fill out all sections of the workplan completely, and provides a workplan that accurately addresses the goal, is specific, achievable, and clear. 0 point responses do not address all required performance measures.*
- Goal 3: Team Collaboration: Maintain communication with full project team on project implementation, challenges, and updates.
 - *Applicant's description of how workplan activities and tasks will achieve goal 3 on a scale of 0-5. 5 point responses address all required performance measures, fill out all sections of the workplan completely, and provides a*

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workplan that accurately addresses the goal, is specific, achievable, and clear. 0 point responses do not address all required performance measures.

Section 8: Project Budget (20 Points)

- Q23 CDFA Will review your attached project budget using Cohort 4 Track 1 Farm to School Incubator Grant application review criteria.
- *Eligibility: Is 20% of the total proposed budget allocated towards Category 1: Food Procurement Costs?*
 - *Yes: Eligible*
 - *No: Ineligible for grant award*
 - *Note: Please base the 20% off of the total proposed budget in the budget spreadsheet, not the total proposed budget in question 9*
- *Eligibility: Is 20% of the total proposed budget allocated towards Category 3: Hands on Food Education Costs?*
 - *Yes: Eligible*
 - *No: Ineligible for grant award*
 - *Note: Please base the 20% off of the total proposed budget in the budget spreadsheet, not the total proposed budget in question 9*
- *Budget Completeness and Purpose*
 - *Applicant's identification and description of each proposed project cost on a scale of 0-20. 20 point responses fill out all sections of the budget line items and budget narrative completely, provides an overall budget that can reasonably achieve workplan activities, is specific, is achievable and is clear. 0 point responses do not provide a budget that can reasonably achieve workplan activities.*

Section 9: Project Sustainability (5 Points)

- Q24 Sustainability Plan: Describe how the proposed activities will become embedded within your organization's regular operations, procurement practices, educational programming, or community partnerships so that benefits continue after grant funding ends. Include any identified funding sources, revenue streams, staffing plans, or partner commitments that support sustainability.
 - *Applicant's description of how they will sustain their project beyond the grant term on a scale of 0-5. 5 point responses clearly layout the organization's plan to sustain their work, answering all aspects of the question and providing a thoughtful and realistic response. 0 point responses are responses that do not answer the question in full.*

Section 10: Additional Applicant Information

Not Scored