

2022 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program: INFO SESSION

February 17, February 24, and March 3, 2022

These info sessions are part of the public comment period for this program



CDFA's Culture of Support and Collaboration

Guiding Questions:

- ❖ How can we simplify?
- ❖ How can we help?
- ❖ How can we celebrate and validate?
- ❖ How can we create lasting impact?

Guiding Practices:

- ❖ Support and Technical Assistance
- ❖ Office Hours + Peer-to-Peer Learning
- ❖ Cross-Pollinating across Programs throughout the State



Purpose and Priorities

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) 2022 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:

- ❖ Engage students from **underserved communities**
- ❖ Serve schools located among **priority populations** that are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
- ❖ Include **small to midsize California food producers**
- ❖ Include **veteran California food producers, socially disadvantaged California food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**
- ❖ 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.



Four Funding Tracks

- ❖ **Track 1:** Farm to School K-12 Procurement and Education Grant
- ❖ **Track 2:** Farm to School Partnership Grant
- ❖ **Track 3:** Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant
- ❖ **Track 4:** Farm to School Producer Grant



YES you may apply to multiple tracks



YES you may apply if you have an existing grant



What to expect in this info session...

For each funding track:

- ❖ Overview of the track
- ❖ Eligibility
- ❖ Funding track details: grant term, award amounts, allowable costs, reporting
- ❖ Application/Scoring

Tracks 1 & 2 only:

- ❖ Example of past projects

Overall grant timeline



Track 1: K-12 F2S Procurement & Education Grant (overview)

Track 1 will fund individual public school districts, county offices of education, and directly funded charter schools in California to establish new or expand existing farm to school programs that:

- ❖ **coordinate** the school nutrition services program with educational opportunities for students in cafeterias, classrooms, and outdoor learning spaces; **and**
- ❖ **procure** new and California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into school meals, especially foods that are culturally relevant, climate smart, and from small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and**
- ❖ if desired, **employ** farm to school staff and/or offer farm to school professional development for staff.



Track 1: K-12 F2S Procurement & Education Grant (eligibility)

**Public
school
districts**

OR

**County
offices of
ed.**

OR

**Directly
funded charter
schools**

...that serve as a School Food Authority (SFA) and operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP); also eligible if currently operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during the school year instead of NSLP/SBP.



Track 1: K-12 F2S Procurement & Education Grant (details)

Grant Term: Sept. 2022 through Aug. 2024

Funding Formula = \$10 per student enrolled (SY 2019-20)
\$150k min and \$1M max, with ~\$15M total available

Allowable Costs: anything you need to buy more whole or minimally processed CA Grown foods + educate students about them:

- ❖ CA Grown food for school meals & education
- ❖ Infrastructure/equipment/materials/supplies for F2S education & school kitchens
- ❖ F2S staff (e.g., coordinators, educators)
- ❖ Labor for procuring/processing
- ❖ Travel
- ❖ Contractors
- ❖ Indirect

Reporting:

- ❖ Pre-survey and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track CA Grown purchases & other spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help, education impacts and # of kids/grown-ups reached)



Track 1: K-12 F2S Procurement & Education Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|------------|
| Eligibility | -- |
| Project Title and Summary | -- |
| Project Team | -- |
| Total Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Community Need | 50 |
| Description of F2S History & Motivation | 5 |
| Project Description | 25 |
| Healthy, Equitable, Resilient Food System | 10 |
| Project Evaluation | -- |
| Project Viability (budget & sustainability plan) | 10 |
| Letter(s) of Support | -- |
| Total | 100 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging students from **underserved communities**
- ❖ Serving schools located among **priority populations**

Food System section includes points for:

- ❖ Including **small to midsize CA producers**
- ❖ Including **veteran producers, socially disadvantaged producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**
- ❖ Including CA producers who **utilize climate smart agriculture practices / production systems**



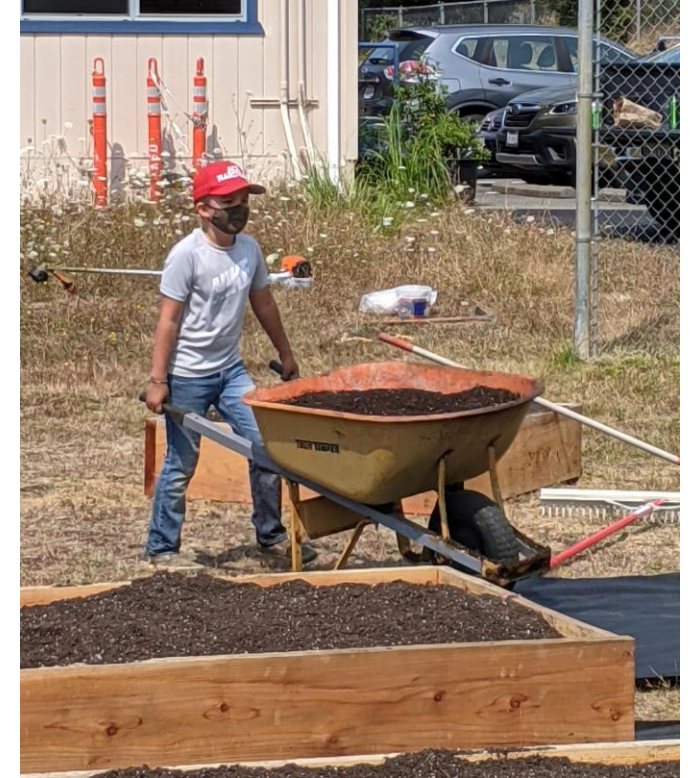
Track 1: 2021 Project Example

Grantee: Arcata Elementary School District (2 school sites)

Award Amount: \$20,000 (in 2022, would be eligible for \$150,000)

Project Description:

- ❖ Building a new school garden with compost area & outdoor classroom
- ❖ Purchasing supplies to support an existing school garden
- ❖ Hosting volunteer work days and hiring a head school gardener
- ❖ Enrolling interested students in a garden club during the school year and a garden camp during the summer
- ❖ Incorporating the garden into classes, electives, & school clubs
- ❖ Using fresh produce from school gardens & local farms in the cafeteria program for taste tests & school meals



Track 2: F2S Partnership Grant (overview)

Track 2 will fund regional and statewide farm to school partnerships in California to establish new or expand existing farm to school initiatives that:

- ❖ implement farm to school procurement and/or education strategies **as part of larger regional or statewide food system development plans; and/or**
- ❖ **increase collaboration and coordination between California food producers and school nutrition services departments** to increase procurement of California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into school meals, especially foods that are culturally relevant, climate smart, and from small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and/or**
- ❖ **provide farm to school procurement and/or education technical assistance or capacity-building support** to more than one farm to school implementing organization, i.e., public school districts, county offices of education, and/or directly funded charter schools.



Track 2: F2S Partnership Grant (eligibility)

Partnership



**At least 1
F2S support
org**

i.e., non-profits, local or Tribal governments, county agencies, RCDs, UCCE, food councils, institutions of higher ed., farmer or rancher cooperatives, food producers, etc.



**At least 1 F2S
implementing
org**

i.e., public school districts, county offices of ed., directly funded charter schools



Track 2: F2S Partnership Grant (details)

Grant Term: Sept. 2022 through Aug. 2024

Award Amounts: \$100k to \$500k, with ~\$4.5M total available

Allowable Costs: anything your partnership needs to establish/expand your regional or statewide F2S initiatives:

- ❖ CA Grown food for student education
- ❖ *NOT ALLOWED: Food procurement for school meals. That's what Track 1 is for.*
- ❖ Infrastructure/equipment/materials/supplies
- ❖ F2S staff
- ❖ Travel
- ❖ Contractors
- ❖ Indirect

Reporting:

- ❖ Pre-survey and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track all spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help, collaboration strategies and project impacts)



Track 2: F2S Partnership Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|------------|
| Eligibility | -- |
| Project Title and Summary | -- |
| Project Team | -- |
| Total Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Community Need | 50 |
| Description of F2S History & Motivation | 5 |
| Project Description | 25 |
| Healthy, Equitable, Resilient Food System | 10 |
| Project Evaluation | -- |
| Project Viability (budget & sustainability plan) | 10 |
| Letter(s) of Support | -- |
| Total | 100 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging students from **underserved communities**
- ❖ Serving schools located among **priority populations**

Food System section includes points for:

- ❖ Including **small to midsize CA producers**
- ❖ Including **veteran producers, socially disadvantaged producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**
- ❖ Including CA producers who **utilize climate smart agriculture practices / production systems**



Track 2: 2021 Project Example

Grantee: California Wheat Commission

Award Amount: \$144,268

Project Description:

- ❖ Partnering with local CA grain farmers to facilitate the supply of wheat to Shandon & San Miguel school districts
- ❖ Installing a whole grain flour mill & pasta extruder at Shandon & an additional pasta extruder at San Miguel
- ❖ Providing the districts with training/resources & collaboratively testing whole grain recipes to facilitate the districts' procurement of whole grains from CA grain farmers & use of these grains in school meals
- ❖ Collaborating with the districts to educate students about whole grain wheat production, processing, & nutrition through experiential learning



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (overview)

Track 3 will fund intermediary organizations and multi-site child care centers in California to establish new or expand existing farm to ECE programs that:

- ❖ **coordinate** food- and garden-based hands-on learning and play opportunities for young children; **and**
- ❖ **procure** California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into meals, snacks, taste tests, and/or food boxes for young children, especially foods that are culturally relevant, climate smart, and from small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and**
- ❖ **offer** ECE providers farm to ECE **technical assistance and/or peer learning spaces; and**
- ❖ if desired, **employ** farm to ECE staff.

The CDFA encourages Track 3 projects to incorporate parent / family engagement and to build connections with K-12 and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (eligibility)

Intermediary Orgs

i.e., CACFP sponsors, Child Care and Development Fund Tribal Lead Agencies, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, First 5 county commissions, Alternative Payment Programs, Head Start grantees, Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils, county agencies with an ECE department, statewide orgs/commissions/associations

OR

Multi-site Child Care Centers

*i.e., operate more than one physical center location (may include school districts), primarily serve children birth through age 5, and licensed by CDSS **or** license-exempt center on an Indian reservation*



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (details)

Grant Term: Sept. 2022 through Aug. 2024

Award Amounts: \$50k to \$200k, with ~\$1M total available

Allowable Costs: anything you need to establish or expand farm to ECE programs:

- ❖ CA Grown food for meals/snacks & education
- ❖ Infrastructure/equipment/materials/supplies for F2ECE education & ECE kitchens
- ❖ F2ECE staff (e.g., coordinators, educators)
- ❖ Labor for procuring/processing
- ❖ Travel
- ❖ Contractors, Mini Grants, TA
- ❖ Indirect

Reporting:

- ❖ Pre-survey and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track CA Grown purchases & other spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help, education impacts and # of kids/grown-ups reached)



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|------------|
| Eligibility | -- |
| Project Title and Summary | -- |
| Project Team | -- |
| Total Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Community Need | 50 |
| Description of F2ECE History & Motivation | 5 |
| Project Description | 25 |
| Healthy, Equitable, Resilient Food System | 10 |
| Project Evaluation | -- |
| Project Viability (budget & sustainability plan) | 10 |
| Letter(s) of Support | -- |
| Total | 100 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging children from **underserved communities**
- ❖ Serving ECE sites located among **priority populations**

Food System section includes points for:

- ❖ Including **small to midsize CA producers**
- ❖ Including **veteran producers, socially disadvantaged producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**
- ❖ Including CA producers who **utilize climate smart agriculture practices / production systems**



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (overview)

Track 4 will fund California food producers to increase food production, processing, and/or distribution for the school food market. Track 4 will also fund California food producers to provide educational opportunities for youth that complement food sales to schools. To be eligible, a producer must show evidence of an established relationship with at least one school nutrition services department.



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (eligibility)

California food producers

i.e., a person, group of individuals, or collaborative 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, OR a California seafood harvester

Applicants must:

- 1. Identify the school(s) you plan to work with --** at least 1 public school district, county office of ed., directly funded charter school, and/or center-based program for children to work with that serves school meals
- 2. Provide evidence of support --** at least 1 letter of intent from a school nutrition services director at any of the above entities to which you intend to sell food **or** at least 1 past purchase order/invoice for food sold to any of the above entities



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (details)

Grant Term: Sept. 2022 through Aug. 2024

Award Amounts: \$5k to \$150k, with ~\$5M total available

Allowable Costs: anything a producer needs to sell more food to schools and/or engage students:

- ❖ Equipment/infrastructure/supplies needed to sell food to schools, as well as equipment/infrastructure/supplies to increase use of climate smart ag practices for school food
- ❖ Staffing costs dedicated to farm to school work
- ❖ Certifications, licensures, or insurance needed to sell food to schools (e.g., food safety)
- ❖ Educational activities for students like field trips, producer visits to cafeteria/classroom, etc.

Reporting:

- ❖ Pre-survey and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track all spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help, project impacts)



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|---|-----------|
| Eligibility | -- |
| Project Title and Summary | -- |
| Total Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Business/Organization Background | -- |
| Relationships with School Nutrition Services Depts. | -- |
| Description of F2S Vision | 2 |
| Project Description | 15 |
| Healthy, Equitable, Resilient Food System | 25 |
| Project Evaluation | -- |
| Project Viability (budget & sustainability plan) | 8 |
| Letter(s) of Support (only needed from contractors, if any) | -- |
| Total | 50 |

Food System section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging students from **underserved communities**
- ❖ Serving schools located among **priority populations**
- ❖ Apps from **small to midsize CA producers**
- ❖ Apps from **veteran producers, socially disadvantaged producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**
- ❖ Apps from CA producers who **utilize climate smart agriculture practices / production systems**



Timeline

- ❖ **February – March 2022:** public comment period
- ❖ **March – May 2022:** applications open (online portal)
- ❖ **May – June 2022:** scoring
- ❖ **Summer 2022:** notification
- ❖ **July/Aug 2022:** grant agreements
- ❖ **September 2022:** projects start
- ❖ **August 2024:** projects end



Questions?

Please keep your question or comment to under 2 minutes

Visit the program webpage to learn more:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/caf2sgrant/>

Send written comments to:

cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov by 5pm PT on
March 7, 2022

Thank you!

