

2023-24 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program: INFO SESSION

November 30, 2023

This info session is 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



Grant Purpose

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) 2023-24 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.



Grant Priorities

Funding Priorities:

- ❖ 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 CA**
- ❖ Include **California food producers who utilize climate smart agriculture practices**, climate smart agriculture production systems like certified organic or transitioning to certified organic; 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; or sustainable pest management.

Additional Priorities:

- ❖ Aim to distribute awards geographically across California to the extent possible
- ❖ Set aside up to 10% of all available grant funding for awards for Tribal governments and Tribal-based non-profit organizations



Four Funding Tracks

- ❖ **Track 1:** Farm to School TK-12 Procurement and Education Grant
- ❖ **Track 2:** Farm to School Technical Assistance (TA) Grant
- ❖ **Track 3:** Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant
- ❖ **Track 4:** Farm to School Producer Grant



No, you may not 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 proposed track
- ❖ Proposed eligibility
- ❖ Proposed funding track details: grant term, award amounts, allowable costs, reporting
- ❖ Proposed application/scoring
- ❖ Past project example

Overall grant timeline



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

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:

- ❖ **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, small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and**
- ❖ **engage** students in hands-on food education opportunities, especially standards-aligned and culturally relevant opportunities led by credentialed or certificated educators, that complement the school meal program's California food procurement efforts; **and**
- ❖ **OPTIONAL:** if desired, **employ** farm to school staff and/or offer farm to school professional development for staff.



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

**Public
school
districts**

OR

**County
offices
of ed.**

OR

**Charter
schools**

OR

**Tribal
schools**

*...that are a School Food Authority (SFA) in California
currently operating the
National School Lunch Program (NSLP).*



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

Grant Term: Up to 2 years; exact dates to be released in final RFA

Funding Formula = \$15 per student enrolled (SY 2022-23)
\$200k min and \$1.5M max

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

Reporting:

- ❖ Beginning interview, Pre-survey, and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track CA Grown purchases & other spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-in surveys (what's working, how can we help, procurement practices, education impacts, etc.)



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

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|------------|
| Foundational Information | -- |
| Funding Formula + Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Project Team | -- |
| Project Team + Organizational Commitment | 15 |
| Community Need | 35 |
| Project Title + Summary | -- |
| Procurement Work Plan + Budget | 30 |
| Education Work Plan + Budget | 30 |
| Project Viability (additional budget/sustainability) | 10 |
| Additional Applicant Information | -- |
| Total | 120 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging students from **underserved communities**

Procurement Work Plan 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**



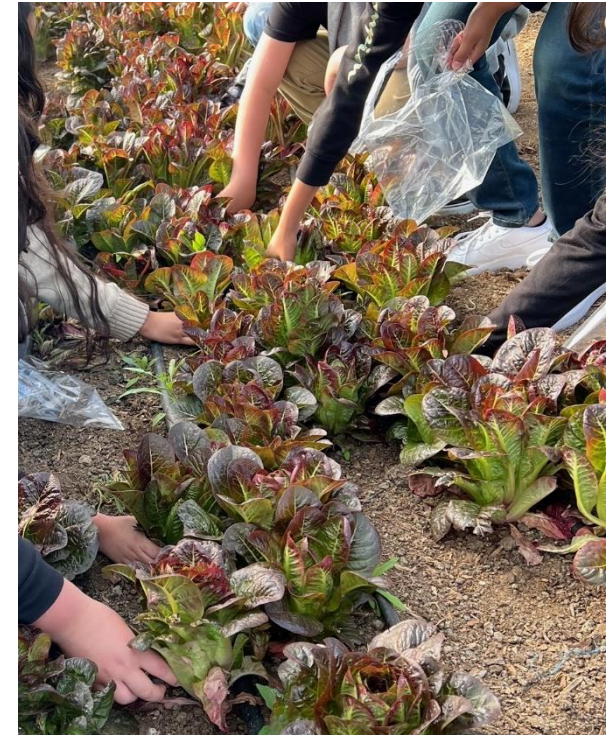
Track 1: 2022 Project Example

Grantee: Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District (13 schools)

Award Amount: \$150k (in 2023-24, would be eligible for \$200k)

Project Activities:

- ❖ Providing hands-on local farm field trips that incorporate Next Generation Science Standards
- ❖ Increasing procurement of seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farms for school meals, including from the farm providing the field trips



Track 2: F2S Technical Assistance (TA) Grant (overview)

Track 2 will fund farm to school technical assistance organizations to help California School Food Authorities (SFAs) and California food producers implement resilient and sustainable farm to school programming. TA projects must:

- ❖ **build** school nutrition, educator, or producer capacity to implement farm to school programs; **and**
- ❖ **focus technical assistance** in **one** of the following categories:
 - School Food: helping California SFAs implement farm to school procurement programs
 - Education: helping California SFAs implement hands-on food education programs in TK-12 settings, especially programs that are standards-aligned, culturally relevant, incorporate credentialed or certificated educators, and complement the school meal program
 - Producer Training: helping California food producers sell products to California SFAs



Track 2: F2S Technical Assistance (TA) Grant (eligibility)

F2S Technical Assistance Organizations

Definition: Any of the following orgs that (a) have an established history supporting California SFAs or California educators with implementing farm to school initiatives or (b) 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 in CA
- ❖ UC ANR and UC Cooperative Extension county offices
- ❖ Public universities in CA
- ❖ California Native American Tribes
- ❖ County agencies and local governments in CA
- ❖ Projects with a non-profit fiscal sponsor

NOTE: Food hubs are not eligible. See Track 4 instead.

Required Partners: School Food and Education projects must partner with at least one California SFA. Producer Training projects must partner with at least one California SFA and at least one California food producer.



Track 2: F2S Technical Assistance (TA) Grant (details)

Grant Term: Up to 2 years; exact dates to be released in final RFA

Award Amounts: \$50k to \$500k

Allowable Costs: anything you need to build school nutrition, educator, or producer capacity to implement farm to school programs:

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

Reporting:

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



Track 2: F2S Technical Assistance (TA) Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|---|------------|
| Foundational Information | -- |
| Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Audience | -- |
| Project Team + Letters of Support | -- |
| Project Team + Organizational Commitment | 15 |
| Community Need | 25 |
| Farm to School Experience | 15 |
| Project Title + Summary | -- |
| Technical Assistance Work Plan | 35 |
| Project Viability (budget/sustainability) | 10 |
| Additional Applicant Information | -- |
| Total | 100 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging students from **underserved communities** (School Food & Education project categories only)
- ❖ Including the producers below (Producer Training project category only)

Work Plan 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**



Track 2: Note about project examples

Project example not available.

The proposed structure of Track 2 for 2023-24 differs from the previous structure of Track 2 in 2021 and 2022.



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (overview)

Track 3 will fund child care centers in California and farm to ECE technical assistance organizations to establish new or expand existing farm to ECE programs that:

- ❖ **procure** California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods for incorporation into meals/snacks and/or food boxes for young children, especially from food producers that utilize climate smart agriculture practices, small to midsize food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; **and**
- ❖ **engage** young children in hands-on food education opportunities, especially standards-aligned and culturally relevant opportunities led by educators with a Child Development Teacher Permit, that complement the meal program's and/or food box program's California food procurement efforts; **and**
- ❖ **OPTIONAL:** if desired, **employ** farm to ECE staff and/or offer farm to ECE professional development for staff.



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (eligibility)

Farm to ECE Technical Assistance Orgs

OR

Child Care Centers

Definition: Any of the following orgs that provide support to ECE providers in CA:

- ❖ CACFP sponsors, Child Care and Development Fund Tribal Lead Agencies in CA, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in CA, First 5 county commissions in CA, Head Start grantees in CA, non-profit orgs, Tribal-based non-profit organizations, Resource Conservation Districts in CA, UC ANR and UC Cooperative Extension county offices, public universities in CA, California Native American Tribes, county agencies in CA, local governments in CA, projects with a non-profit fiscal sponsor

Required Partners: at least two ECE sites in CA

Definition:

- ❖ Located in CA
- ❖ Provide care all or part of the day
- ❖ Single-site or multi-site
- ❖ *Primarily* serve young children birth through age 5
- ❖ Licensed by the CDSS Community Care Licensing Division OR meet appropriate criteria for a license exemption



Track 3: Farm to ECE Grant (details)

Grant Term: Up to 2 years; exact dates to be released in final RFA

Award Amounts: \$50k to \$200k

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

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

Reporting:

- ❖ Beginning interview, Pre-survey, and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track CA Grown purchases & other spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-ins (what's working, how can we help, procurement practices, education impacts, etc.)



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

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|------------|
| Foundation Information | -- |
| Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Project Team + Letters of Support | -- |
| Project Team + Organizational Commitment | 15 |
| Community Need | 25 |
| Project Title + Summary | -- |
| Procurement Work Plan + Budget | 30 |
| Education Work Plan + Budget | 30 |
| Project Viability (additional budget/sustainability) | 10 |
| Additional Applicant Information | -- |
| Total | 110 |

Community Need section includes points for:

- ❖ Engaging children from **underserved communities**

Procurement Work Plan 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**



Track 3: 2022 Project Example

Grantee: McCarthy Family Child Development & Training Center

Award Amount: \$200k



Project Activities:

- ❖ Procuring locally grown produce for children's meals
- ❖ Providing food boxes with locally grown foods to families
- ❖ Implementing seasonal food taste tests for children
- ❖ Collaborating with a composting organization to plan/implement a composting system for the center and include education for staff/children/families
- ❖ Implementing a food-based curriculum for children including planting, growing, harvesting



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (overview)

Track 4 will fund California food producers and public-serving food aggregation and distribution enterprises to increase production, processing, and/or distribution capacity to sell California grown or produced, whole or minimally processed foods to the school food market.

Funding will prioritize small to midsize food producers; veteran, socially disadvantaged, and/or limited-resource food producers; and food producers utilizing climate smart agriculture practices or production systems.



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (eligibility)

CA food producers

Definition: 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.

OR

Public-serving food aggregation & distribution enterprises

Definition: Often called a “food hub,” this entity serves as a supply chain intermediary for local or regional farms or ranches, particularly those optimizing climate smart agriculture production practices or methods and following state labor practices. An eligible enterprise must prioritize to the greatest extent possible, but is not limited to, serving 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. Additionally, an eligible enterprise must handle 100% CA grown products within CA or be able to farm identify sourcing for 100% of products to ensure state dollars support CA farms and ranches.



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (eligibility clarification)

In this grant program, the term “food producer” does **not** include school-operated gardens and school-operated farms.

What this means:

- ❖ School-operated gardens and school-operated farms are **not** eligible to apply to **Track 4**.
- ❖ School-operated gardens and school-operated farms *may be an element* of a **Track 1** project (i.e., for hands-on food education activities or as a food source for CA grown food procurement). However, they would **not** qualify as a food producer partner in Track 1, 2, or 3.
- ❖ **Third parties** (such as individual contractors or non-profit organizations) that operate a farm on school property (rather than the school operating it) are eligible to apply to Track 4 as a CA food producer. They are also eligible food producer partners in Track 1, 2, and 3.



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (eligibility continued)

Applicants must:

1) Identify the school(s) you plan to work with:

- ❖ at least one CA public school district, county office of ed., charter school, or Tribal school that is a School Food Authority (SFA) currently operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); **and/or**
- ❖ at least one California child care center currently participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

2) Provide evidence of collaboration:

- ❖ A letter of intent from the director of the school meal program at each School Food Authority or Child Care Center that the applicant identifies as a project partner



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (details)

Grant Term: Up to 2 years; exact dates to be released in final RFA

Award Amounts: \$15k to \$250k

Allowable Costs: anything you need to increase capacity to sell CA Grown food to schools and, if desired, to provide hands-on food education to schools:

- ❖ Equipment/infrastructure/supplies to: increase production/processing/distribution capacity to sell food to schools, establish/enhance use of climate smart ag practices for school food, establish/expand hands-on food education opportunities for students or school staff (e.g., farm field trips) that complement food sales
- ❖ Staffing costs dedicated to farm to school work
- ❖ Certifications, licensures, or insurance needed to sell food to schools (e.g., food safety)
- ❖ Travel, Contractors, Indirect

Reporting:

- ❖ Beginning interview, Pre-survey, and Final interview
- ❖ Regular financial reporting: track all spending
- ❖ Quarterly check-in surveys (what's working, how can we help, food sales to schools, use of climate smart ag practices, etc.)



Track 4: F2S Producer Grant (app/scoring)

| Application Overview | Points |
|--|-----------|
| Foundational Information | 20 |
| Dollar Amount Requested | -- |
| Project Team + Letters of Intent | -- |
| Project Team + Organizational Commitment | 15 |
| Business History + Farm to School History | 10 |
| Project Title + Summary | -- |
| Farm to School Work Plan | 15 |
| Production Practices and/or Aggregation/Distribution Practices | 25 |
| Project Viability (budget/sustainability) | 10 |
| Additional Applicant Information | -- |
| Total | 95 |

Foundational Info section includes points for:

- ❖ Apps from **small to midsize CA producers** or small to midsize public-serving food aggregation/distribution enterprises
- ❖ Apps from (or that include) **veteran producers, socially disadvantaged producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in CA**

Production/Aggregation/Distribution Practices section includes points for:

- ❖ Apps from (or that include) CA producers who **utilize climate smart agriculture practices / production systems**



Track 4: 2022 Project Example

Grantee: McGrath Family Farmers Inc.

Award Amount: \$150k (in 2023-24, would be eligible for up to \$250k)

Project Activities:

- ❖ Purchasing infrastructure and equipment to scale up farm to school production
- ❖ Growing crops, conserving water, composting, and planting hedgerows
- ❖ Partnering with local school districts



Estimated Timeline

- ❖ **Nov 29 – Dec 14, 2023:** public comment period
- ❖ **Estimated January 2024:** applications open (online portal)
- ❖ **Weekly throughout app period:** Q&A Zoom sessions
- ❖ **Estimated March 2024:** applications due
- ❖ **Estimated Spring 2024:** review process
- ❖ **Award notification/announcement:** date to be released in final RFA
- ❖ **Grant term begins:** date to be released in final RFA



Questions/Comments?

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
December 14, 2023

Thank you!

