

California Farm to School Program



The California Farm to School movement connects the dots between school food, education, community health, economic growth, and organic, climate smart, and regenerative agriculture.



Our Work



Systems Change + Transformation

CDFA's Farm to School Incubator Grant funds producers, supply chain partners, technical assistance organizations, and schools to increase local food purchasing and hands-on food education for students.



Total Program Reach

CDFA's 16 regional farm to school staff provide technical assistance to 502 local educational agencies representing 72% of all CA school children and 61% of all Title I schools in California.



Prioritizing Equity + Need

80% of CA F2S Incubator grantees are Title I schools and 100% of farmer grantees are small to midsize, veteran, socially disadvantaged, or limited resource farm households.



New Markets for Climate Smart

100% of producers funded through the CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program utilize climate smart, organic, and regenerative agricultural practices, providing a stable market for adoption.



Grant Program Demand Increases

Demand for CDFA Farm to School program support has increased 523% since 2021—from 80 applications to 499 applications, including applications from all 58 California counties.



Proven Economic Impact

Third party evaluation shows that for every \$1 invested in the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, \$2.10 of economic activity is generated for local CA communities.



Statewide Support

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cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov

Success Stories

Since 2021, CDFA's Farm to School Incubator Grant Program invested \$86 million in 375 projects, benefitting 49% of all California public school students.



Los Angeles Unified School District

LAUSD utilized grant funding to connect cafeteria programs, career technical education, and an overhaul of their food procurement, warehousing, and distribution processes to increase local food procurement from small farmers, food hubs, and producers using climate smart, organic, and regenerative agricultural practices. They're now on pace to purchase \$4.7 million from these growers during the 2025-26 school year.

SPORK Food Hub

When SPORK first applied for the CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program, the new food hub served just four school districts and generated \$80,000 in sales. Now, with grant funding investments in infrastructure, staffing, and equipment, the food hub serves over 40 school districts and generates \$6.5 million in annual sales – an 812% increase that directly supports CA small and midsize producers who access the institutional food market through the food hub.

Burns Blossom Farm

The Chico-based organic farm utilized CA Farm to School Incubator Grant funds to invest in comprehensive food safety planning, production infrastructure like shade cloth, and new farming equipment to improve farm efficiency, safety, and production. Now, the farm is hosting school farm tours and planting new acreage to serve the growing school food marketplace.



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