



Enhancing Young Children's Access to Local Foods and Farm to ECE: **Federal Funding Guide** VERSION 2

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Purpose and Organization

Funding is a necessary resource to build up and carry out farm to early care and education (ECE)¹ activities. There are a variety of funding sources that states, localities, and organizations have strategically used to support the purchase of culturally relevant local foods; gardening and food tastings; and food, nutrition, and agricultural education for ECE sites. This guide provides functional descriptions of actionable and timely federal funding streams, including an overview of the funding eligibility requirements, allowed uses, timeline, flow of funds, and strategies for action. The guide highlights examples of how entities across the country are creatively leveraging funding streams for farm to ECE. The purpose of this guide is to prepare and position farm to ECE partners to effectively apply for funding.

Funding opportunities highlighted in this guide are for states, localities, government agencies, and community-based organizations. The funding streams are organized into three overlapping categories: food and agriculture, health and nutrition, and early care and education. Each funding opportunity is followed by an example of how the funding was leveraged for farm to ECE activities.

¹ Early Care and Education (ECE) is a standard, all-encompassing term that will be used throughout the document to describe all types of early care and education settings, including but not limited to: child care (home and center-based as well as nonprofit and for-profit), Head Start, and Pre-Kindergarten programs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ELIGIBILITY BY ENTITY

The following table identifies the categories of entities that are eligible for each funding opportunity. Each funding opportunity page identifies the category of eligible entity with a corresponding icon.

	 Tribal Governments and organizations	 State agencies	 County and local agencies	 Nonprofit organizations	 Colleges and Universities	 Early care and education professionals	 Agricultural producers or producer groups
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FUNDING

Patrick Leahy Farm to School (F2S) Grant Program	●	●	●	●		●	●
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)		●		●		●	
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cooperative Extension System					●		
Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)	●		●	●			●
Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)	●		●	●			●
Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP)	●			●			
Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP)	●	●	●	●	●		●
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program					●		●
EPA Environment Education Grants	●	●		●	●		
Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program				●	●	●	
Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) competitive grants	●		●	●			

HEALTH AND NUTRITION FUNDING

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education (SNAP-Ed)	●	●	●	●	●		
State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program	●	●	●	●	●		
Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant	●	●					
Preventative Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant	●	●					
High Obesity Program (HOP)					●		
Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)	●	●	●	●	●		

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FUNDING

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	●	●					
Head Start and Early Head Start	●		●	●	●		
Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5)		●					
Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program	●	●	●	●			

ACRONYMS

ACF	Administration for Children and Families	HS	Head Start
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service	LAMP	Local Agriculture Market Program
CB	Capacity Building	LFPP	Local Food Promotion Program
CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program	MCH	Maternal and Child Health Services
CCDF	Child Care Development Fund	NCCDPHP	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	NIFA	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
CEFS	Center for Environmental Farming Systems	NSLA	National School Lunch Act
CNR	Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act	OCFS	Office of Community Food Systems
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture	PLNs	Peer Learning Networks
CFPCGP	Community Food Projects Competitive Grants	PDG B-5	Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five
DNPAO	Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity	PHHS	Preventive Health and Health Services
DECAL	Department of Early Care and Learning	QCC	Quality Care for Children
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services	RD	Rural Development
HOP	High Obesity Program	REACH	Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
EE	Environmental Education	RFP	Request for Proposals
ECE	Early Care and Education	RFA	Request for Applications
EHS	Early Head Start	RFSP	Regional Food System Partnerships
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SAE	State Administrative Expense
Farm to ECE	Farm to Early Care and Education	SBP	School Breakfast Program
FASLP	Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program	SFAs	School Food Authorities
F2S	Farm to School	SCBGP	Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
FMPP	Farmers Market Promotion Program	SPAN	State Physical Activity and Nutrition
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service	SSB	Sugar Sweetened Beverage
FOA	Funding Opportunity Announcement	SFSP	Summer Food Service Program
FY	Fiscal Year	SARE	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices	UAIP	Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration	USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Patrick Leahy Farm to School (F2S) Grant Program



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$12 million (Fiscal Year [FY] 2024), Awards up to \$500,000, 100 awards expected

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 25% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Child care institutions that operate the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Schools and non-school based organizations that operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); State agencies; Local agencies; Indian Tribal Organizations; Agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers; and Nonprofit entities

STATE CONTACTS: [F2S Grant Program State agency contacts](#)

OVERVIEW

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program, established by the NSLA, helps organizations implement activities related to increasing access to local and fresh foods in child care settings and schools. NSLA provides \$5 million to USDA annually for grants and technical assistance for F2S programs. The FNS OCFS, which houses the F2S Grant Program, provides additional funding through agricultural appropriations.

There are several types of F2S grants (Turnkey, Implementation, and State Agency). Schools, ECE locations, and institutions that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program, National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and/or the National School Breakfast Program, Indian Tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities are all eligible for the Turnkey grant for action planning, edible gardens, or agricultural education curriculum projects. These

entities are also eligible to apply for Implementation grants. State agencies can apply for a State Agency grant or for a Turnkey grant through producer training projects. State Agency grants are not limited to state agencies that administer child nutrition programs. The maximum grant award amount is \$500,000.

The funding for this program flows from the federal government directly to the grantee, so organizations get the money upfront, instead of as a reimbursement. When applying, USDA asks for specifics on how your organization is allocating the funding with justification for the amount that you are requesting. F2S grants have a 25 percent match requirement. Farm to ECE can be the focus of these grants. One major restriction to note is that no more than ten percent of the federal share of grant funds can be used to purchase food and are limited to educational purposes only. Otherwise, USDA provides flexibility for most farm to ECE activities.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Logan Heights Community Development Corporation

CALIFORNIA | **\$43,560 (2021)** | GRANT TYPE: TURNKEY

Logan Heights Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization, located in San Diego, California, who successfully applied for a Turnkey grant. They are using their funding to plan and create an edible garden at its Future Achievers Preschool, which cares for 70 two- to five-year-old children. A Master Gardener and volunteers will help students understand the science and other food cultivation concepts. They will also teach the children about related careers and academic paths. The edible garden provides healthy food options throughout the school day for children from families with low-to-moderate income, and serves as a hub for community pride and volunteer activities.

(continued on next page)

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program](#).
- ▶ Explore [previous awardees and descriptions of their projects](#).
- ▶ Subscribe to the [Office of Community Food System's E-letter](#).

TIMELINE

The Request for Applications (RFA) is released **annually** around **October**, with a **deadline typically in early January**.



PATRICK LEAHY FARM TO SCHOOL (F2S) GRANT PROGRAM CONTINUED

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

GEORGIA | **\$154,899** | 2023

Grant Type: State Agency

The Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning's (DECAL) vision is that every child in Georgia will have equal access to high quality ECE settings. With the support of this grant, DECAL will: 1) implement a two year long Farm to ECE Procurement Grant program to support select CACFP sites and farmers in local procurement through workshops, technical assistance, grant funds, certifications, and mentorship; 2) co-host the 9th Farm to School and ECE Summit alongside Georgia Organics at three different locations across the state; 3) partner with the Black Child Development Institute to create an Early Childhood Wellness Toolkit with developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive activities connected to Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Farm to ECE; and 4) partner with Small Bites Adventure Club to provide high-quality, monthly turn-key food education resources and recipes, family engagement programming, and professional development for ECE educators.



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$4.8 Billion (Estimate for FY 2025)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: FNS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act (CNR)

FUNDING TYPE: Monthly reimbursement, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State departments that administer CACFP, child care centers, family child care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult care centers, and emergency shelters

STATE CONTACTS: Department Administering CACFP

OVERVIEW

CACFP is a federal nutrition program that reimburses enrolled ECE sites, afterschool programs, adult day care centers, or emergency shelters for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and adults. CACFP improves participants' nutrition, reduces obesity, strengthens the quality of early care, and can help boost and stabilize child care educators' income and services.

CACFP can support farm to ECE programming by defraying the costs associated with local food procurement, garden development and maintenance, and even educational costs. CACFP operators can buy local food directly from producers, food hubs, farmers markets, and [community supported agriculture](#) models. CACFP funds can also be used for gardening items (seeds, fertilizer, watering cans, rakes, etc.) as long as the produce grown in the garden will be used as part of reimbursable meals or nutrition education activities. State administrative expense (SAE) funds² can also be used to provide technical assistance and coordination of farm to ECE activities.

USDA's FNS administers CACFP through grants to states. CACFP is administered through a state agency

² SAE funds are funds provided by USDA FNS to state agencies that administer CACFP for the administrative costs associated with operating CACFP at the state agency level, including training and technical assistance.

that provides cash reimbursement to program sponsors and child care centers. Family child care homes that participate in CACFP go through a sponsoring organization. ECE educator that wish to participate in CACFP should contact their [state agency](#) to apply or identify a CACFP sponsor to help them participate in the program. No matching funding is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about [CACFP](#) and [Farm to CACFP](#), including how to [leverage CACFP for Farm to Early Care and Education](#).
- ▶ Contact your [state agency](#) or find a [CACFP sponsor](#) to apply to use CACFP.
- ▶ Work with partners to encourage ECE professionals to participate in CACFP.
- ▶ Bolster local food system partner access to CACFP market channels.
- ▶ Advocate to your [state agency administering CACFP](#) to apply planned CACFP state administrative funds to farm to ECEs.



EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms

Michigan | \$9.3 Million | FY 2023 State Budget

Established in 2016, [10 Cents A Meal For Michigan's Kids & Farms](#), is a state-funded program providing schools and ECE sites participating in NSLP or CACFP with matched incentive funding. Funding is up to 10 cents per meal to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes. The program's goal is to improve daily nutrition and eating habits for Michigan children in school and ECE settings, as well as invest in Michigan agriculture and related local food business economy. In the fiscal year 2021, the program was expanded statewide, allowing ECE sites to participate. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education who awarded [270 grantees in FY 2023](#). View the program's [yearly impact reports here](#).

TIMELINE

Applications for an ECE site to participate in CACFP are accepted on a **rolling basis**.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$73 million annually (FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Farm Bill

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State departments of agriculture, nonprofit organizations; producer groups; trade associations; state and local governments; and colleges and universities

STATE CONTACTS: [State Department of Agriculture](#)

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the [SCBGP](#) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Examples of projects aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops related to farm to ECE include, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops through outreach, education, and marketing campaigns; improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems; assisting entities in the specialty crop distribution chains in developing “Good Agricultural Practices” and other food safety requirements.

Entities interested in the SCBGP apply to their [state Department of Agriculture](#) for funding. Eligible entities include other state and local agencies, producer groups, trade associations, nonprofits, and colleges and universities. State Departments of Agriculture are then eligible to apply directly to USDA for block grant funds. The grant is open annually with a maximal grant period of up to three years. No matching funding is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [SCBGP](#).
- ▶ Coordinate with farm to ECE partners to develop a project proposal for state-level SCBGP funding.
- ▶ Reach out to your [state contact](#) to apply for funding and encourage them to include farm to ECE initiatives in the state plan.
- ▶ View [previously funded SCBGP projects](#) for ideas.

TIMELINE

The USDA SCBGP request for proposals (RFP) for state departments of agriculture is released **annually around January** with a **deadline typically in early May**. States release their own RFPs before the USDA deadline to elicit projects from the community. Individuals, organizations, and other non-federal entities first apply to their state agency for funding. Application deadlines for organizations range from **January to April** depending on the state, but concept papers for proposed projects may be due before this timeframe.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Leveraging Farm to ECE Partnerships to Increase Demand and Access for Specialty Crops

INDIANA | \$87,413 | 2022

[Green Bridge Growers](#) is a social enterprise aquaponic farm that provides training and employment to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, including individuals with autism. Their SCBGP project aims to increase demand for locally grown produce by partnering with eight ECE sites to provide children at the sites with experiential learning through the garden, conduct food and agricultural education, give farm tours, engage families, and market their local foods. They aim to develop a replicable model for farmer-led farm to ECE programming as a way to strengthen local produce procurement to benefit local growers.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Seasonality: Wisconsin-Grown Recipes for the Early Childhood Setting

WISCONSIN | \$74,000 | 2018

In 2018, Community GroundWorks (now [Rooted](#)) and the [Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems](#) used SCBGP funding to develop the “[Celebrate Seasonality](#)” resources. Celebrate Seasonality is a recipe guide and training series to increase the use of Wisconsin-grown specialty crops in meals and snacks at Wisconsin ECE sites by (1) Educating ECE providers and support staff about accessing and preparing Wisconsin-grown specialty crops and (2) Exploring opportunities to connect underserved and beginning Wisconsin specialty crop growers with ECE sites.

Cooperative Extension System



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$69 million (FY 2023)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act Of 1977

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 100% match required

ELIGIBILITY: 1890 Land-Grant Institutions

STATE CONTACTS: [Land-Grant University Directory](#)

OVERVIEW

The Cooperative Extension System (Extension) is operated through the nation’s Land-grant University System in partnership with the federal, state, and local governments. Extension translates science-based research into resources and programming appropriate for public audiences. County-based educators work with communities to provide education and programming, and to collect input to advance future research. Extension programs may be a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–Education (SNAP-Ed) implementing agency. Extension funds can be used to hire farm to ECE staff

and can be leveraged for a wide variety of farm to ECE activities including local food education and technical assistance for gardening. A 100 percent match from non-federal sources is required.

TIMELINE

There are multiple capacity grant and competitive grant funding mechanisms that support Cooperative Extension and the **timeline varies** for each.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Farm, Food, and Enterprise Development Program | Iowa State University

IOWA | \$50,000

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has two full time farm to school and ECE coordinators within the [Farm, Food, and Enterprise Development Program](#). These positions increase capacity for statewide farm to school and early care work and community-level technical assistance. These coordinator roles support farm to school and ECE efforts in partnership with Iowa state agencies and nonprofits in the [Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Coalition](#). Funding from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, along with grants and contracts, funds these positions and supports the coordinators to help create programs such as [Iowa Farm to ECE Awards & Training](#), [Iowa Kids Garden Day](#), [Local Food Makes Cents](#) and a local food purchasing incentive pilot for ECE sites, the annual [Community Food Systems + Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Conference](#), and the [Local Food Healthy Kids](#) policy program.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Cooperative Extension System](#).
- ▶ Connect with your [Land Grant University](#) and their local Extension agents to understand the existing ECE work being conducted and advocate for farm to ECE activities in this space.
- ▶ Explore [Agricultural Extension Programs grant funding](#) for Land-grant Universities.



Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$10.5 million (Estimate for FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1627c)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 25% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Entities that support local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products including: agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, economic development corporations, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, producer networks or associations, regional farmers' market authorities and Tribal governments

STATE CONTACTS: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

OVERVIEW

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) is implemented under the [Local Agriculture Market Program \(LAMP\)](#). LFPP funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

LFPP offers four project types: 1) Planning, 2) Implementation, 3) Turnkey Marketing and Promotion, and 4) Turnkey Recruitment and Training. LFPP project types span a variety of activities. Planning projects fund activities, such as conducting feasibility studies, hiring training and technical assistance experts, and developing business plans. Implementation projects establish, expand, and improve food enterprises and market channels. Project activities may include food incubator programs, mid-tier value chain development, food safety certifications and upgrades, virtual marketplaces, and route optimization and efficiencies. The Turnkey Marketing and Promotion projects support the most common LFPP marketing activities like market identification and analysis, marketing plan development, marketing and promotion design and

purchases, and evaluation. The new Turnkey Recruitment and Training projects support the most common LFPP recruitment and training activities such as identification and analysis of strategies for vendor and producer recruitment, training or both as well as the development of a plan, design materials, implement the plan, and evaluate the outcomes. A 25 percent match from non-federal sources is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Local Food Promotion Program](#), including how to apply.
- ▶ View [previously funded projects](#).
- ▶ Check out the program [fact sheet](#).

TIMELINE

The application typically **opens in February** and **closes in May**.



EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Quality Care for Children

GEORGIA | \$121,977.00 | 2022–2023

Quality Care for Children (QCC), in collaboration with the Georgia Farm to ECE Coalition, local farmers, ECE professionals, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), and other stakeholders, developed a value chain coordination model to streamline the purchasing of local foods by ECE programs. The model report includes an analysis of existing value chain coordination models, identification of a feasible model for Georgia, and recommendations for management, financing, and utilization of USDA CACFP funding for local purchases. QCC hosted farmer and ECE professionals networking events to facilitate relationship building and identify potential pilot sites for the model.

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$10.5 million (Estimate for FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: AMS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1627c)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 25% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible entities may apply if they support local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products including: agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, economic development corporations, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, producer networks or associations, regional farmers' market authorities and tribal governments

STATE CONTACTS: FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov

OVERVIEW

The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. FMPP achieves this goal through the creation, coordination, and delivery of outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.

FMPP offers four types of projects, 36-month Capacity Building, 36-month Community Development Training and Technical Assistance, 24-month Turnkey Marketing and Promotion, and 24-month Turnkey Recruitment and Training projects. Capacity Building projects range from \$50,000 to \$250,000, while Community Development Training and Technical Assistance projects range from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

Each of the turnkey project options are available for a defined set of activities, with funding amounts ranging from \$50,000 and \$100,000. A 25 percent match from non-federal sources is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#), including this program [fact sheet](#).
- ▶ Understand how to [apply](#).
- ▶ Explore [previously funded projects](#) for ideas, including recipients that helped connect farms and food producers to schools and children.

TIMELINE

The application typically **opens in February** and **closes in May**.



Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (CFPCGP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$4,800,000 (Estimated FY 2024) | Award range \$25,000 to \$400,000

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: NIFA

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Public Law 104-127 (Title IV, section 401(g), April 4, 1996) which amended the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011) and added Section 25, Assistance for Community Food Projects (7 U.S.C. 2034).

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 100% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible entities include public food program service providers, Tribal organizations, private nonprofit entities, including gleaners, and they must 1) have experience in the area of community food work, 2) demonstrate competency to implement a project and provide fiscal accountability, 3) demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, practitioners, and her interested parties; 4) and collaborate with one or more local partner organizations to achieve at least one hunger-free communities' goal

STATE CONTACTS: [Primary Contact Division of Nutrition](#)

OVERVIEW

The CFPCGP is designed to meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service. In addition it increases the self-reliance of communities in providing for their food needs and promotes comprehensive responses to local food, food access, farm, and nutrition issues. It may also meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, including needs relating to: equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project; planning for long-term solutions; the creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers. Applications from organizations that address food insecurity in rural, Tribal, and underserved communities are encouraged.

CFPCGP funds two project types: Planning Projects and Community Food Projects. Planning Projects provide early-stage investment in new, startup projects or invest in completing project plans toward the improvement

of community food security. Community Food Projects seek solutions over the longer term rather than focusing on short-term food relief. They will seek comprehensive solutions to problems across all levels of the food system from farmer to consumer. Community food projects should not be designed to merely support individual food pantries, farmers markets, community gardens or other established projects. Rather, the community food projects should build on these experiences and encourage innovative long-term solutions to food and nutrition security. A 100% match from non-federal sources is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program](#).
- ▶ [View the funding page and learn how to apply.](#)
- ▶ Explore [previous projects](#).



EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Local Seafood For Cape Cod Preschool Children and Their Families

MASSACHUSETTS | \$20,271 | 2023–2024

The [Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance](#) is implementing a Community Food Projects initiative that aims to integrate quality seafood into school-age and ECE programs while engaging community members to foster appreciation for and explore industry careers. In partnership with a regional Community Action Committee, which serves hundreds of ECE meals weekly, the project distributes two products from their "[Small Boats, Big Taste](#)" program: haddock chowder and fish stew. This project will not only introduce young children to local seafood but also extend outreach to families, enhancing their understanding of seafood's benefits and preparation. Additionally, local fishing captains will share their experiences, promoting the fishing industry as a viable career path through their training program. This strategy aims to bolster local seafood demand, connect with underserved communities, improve nutrition for young children, and educate families about Cape Cod's primary industry and employment opportunities.

TIMELINE

Applications **typically open in August** and are **due in November**.

Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP)



QUICK FACTS

TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT: \$5 million (FY 2024) | Award range \$100,00 to \$1 million

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: AMS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. § 1627c)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 25% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are partnerships between at least one eligible entity and at least one eligible partner:

Eligible entities: producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, producer networks or associations, majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, community supported agriculture networks or associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit organizations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers market authorities, and Tribal governments

Eligible partners: state agencies or regional authorities, philanthropic corporations, institutions of higher education, private corporations, and commercial, federal or farm credit system lending institutions

STATE CONTACTS: IPPGrants@usda.gov

OVERVIEW

RFSP supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies. RFSP funds two project types: 1) Planning and Design and 2) Implementation and Expansion. A 25% match from non-federal sources is required for each project type.

Planning and Design projects support partnerships in the early stages of convening, envisioning, and planning. This project type runs for 24 months and awards range from \$100,000 to \$250,000. Activities may include convening partners, creating and conducting feasibility studies, developing implementation plans and assessments, connecting food value chain partners, and conducting market or financing research. Projects should seek public and private partners that operate across the regional food economy.

Implementation and Expansion projects support partnerships to build on prior or ongoing efforts within

local and regional food systems. This project type runs for 36 months and awards range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. Project activities may include creating value chains across food system actors, developing processes for community engagement, identifying gaps and applying for resources, and providing technical assistance for partners.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [Regional Food System Partnerships program](#).
- ▶ Learn [how to apply](#).
- ▶ Explore [previously funded RFSP projects](#).
- ▶ View the RFSP [fact sheet](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

TIMELINE

- ▶ Applications typically **open in February** and are **due in May**.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Resilient Relationships, Resilient Supply

MICHIGAN | \$891,100 | FY 2022

The [Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities](#) leveraged RFSP funds for their “Resilient Relationships, Resilient Supply” project to build upon established partnerships to strengthen the food system along lower Michigan’s Western Lakeshore, a 16-county region, aiming to boost sales and consumption of locally grown foods from small and mid-sized producers to schools, ECE centers, and emergency food providers. The project increased community nutrition security by enhancing access to healthy, local food for low-income children, families, and citizens. It supported over 34 stakeholder partners in addressing gaps in infrastructure and supply chains to facilitate market growth. Leveraging Michigan’s state program, [10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids & Farms](#), it increased local food purchasing power for schools, ECE centers, and organizations feeding children through USDA nutrition programs. Lead project partners convened five Peer Learning Networks (PLNs) and provided farm-to-institution support and technical assistance. This facilitated stronger collaborations among producers, distributors, processors/aggregators, schools/ECE centers, and emergency food providers. The PLNs offered networking opportunities, identified needs, found solutions, and built relationships. PLN members conducted site visits to each other’s organization locations, exchanged best practices, and received scholarships to five key Michigan-based food systems conferences for professional development. Through technical assistance and coordinated efforts, the project aimed to enhance capacity, develop new market opportunities for producers to expand local and regional food businesses, and promote food safety practices.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$48 million (FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: NIFA

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACT Act)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant

ELIGIBILITY: Farmers and ranchers, researchers, graduate students, extension agents and other educators

STATE CONTACTS: [SARE National Program Leader](#), [North Central Region State Coordinators](#), [Southern Region State Coordinators](#), [Western Region State Coordinators](#), [Northeast Region State Coordinators](#)

OVERVIEW

SARE supports research, education, and outreach that increases knowledge about agricultural production systems to ensure that U.S. agriculture is innovative and profitable, while protecting waterways and land, and providing products that improve the community's quality of life. SARE is administered by USDA-NIFA, run by four regions (Northeast, North Central, South, and West), and administered by land grant institutions. Each region sets their priorities and offers a variety of [competitive grant programs](#), along with training and resources for agriculture professionals. Some SARE grant programs can be used by agricultural producers to partner with other entities, including ECE sites, to provide agricultural education and market their goods. Funding flows from the Regional SARE hosts to the awarded entity.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about SARE](#) and their [grant programs](#).
- ▶ Explore previous [project examples](#).
- ▶ View [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- ▶ Visit your regional SARE website to learn more and apply for SARE grants.
 - » [Northeast SARE](#)
 - » [North Central SARE](#)
 - » [Southern SARE](#)
 - » [Western SARE](#)

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

[Introducing Locally Grown Produce to Childcare Centers during Winter While Promoting Sustainable Nutrition through Education and Marketing](#)

MISSOURI | \$7,500.00 | (2012–2014)

[Rhodes Mountain Greenhouse](#), a small farm in Southeast Missouri, launched a project to educate children on growing their own food and understanding the importance of vegetables. The farm also marketed locally grown vegetables to child care centers. The project aimed to influence community food choices by offering hands-on learning about healthy eating, and encouraging other local growers to start their own greenhouse operations to supply more vegetables to community children.

The project included farm and child care visits. Starting in July and running until March, children visited the farm at least three times per season to learn about greenhouse operations, planting, and harvesting vegetables. Children took home vegetable samples to share with their families, fostering excitement about gardening and healthy eating. The project also included visits to the child care centers with vegetable tastings, periodic progress updates through emails with photos of the crops, and educational presentations developed in collaboration with local health and nutrition experts. As vegetables were harvested, they were sold to the centers.

TIMELINE

Application **deadlines vary** by grant type and region. Visit your regional SARE website for more information on specific timelines.



EPA Environmental Education (EE) Grants



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$3.6 million (FY 2023) | 30-35 awards | Award range \$50,000-\$100,000

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Office of Environmental Education

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: The National Environmental Education Act of 1990

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, 25% match required

ELIGIBILITY: Local education agencies, college or universities, state education or environmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, Tribal nonprofit organizations, Tribal education agencies, non-commercial educational broadcasting entities

STATE CONTACTS: [EE grants regional coordinators](#)

OVERVIEW

EPA's Environmental Education (EE) Grants provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education that increase public awareness and knowledge about local environmental issues. Environmental education is defined as teaching how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills on environmental and conservation topics with an ultimate goal of environmental and conservation stewardship, and can include farm to ECE education. EE can include both outdoor and in-classroom education, in both formal and non-formal settings.

Annually, an RFA is issued in each of [EPA's ten regions](#) and approximately three to five grants from each region are awarded. Eligible entities can use EE grants for farm to ECE by developing educational programming that encourages community gardening, composting and/or local food purchasing. Exactly 25% of EPA EE funding must be used for subawards, with each subaward having a value of \$5,000 or less. Additionally, a 25% match from non-federal sources is required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about Environmental Education Grants.](#)
- ▶ Explore how to [apply](#) and [previously funded projects.](#)
- ▶ View [Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

TIMELINE

RFAs are typically **posted in September** with applications **due in November or December.**

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

[Environmental Education and Local Food System Project](#)

MISSOURI | \$40,000 | 2014

This [Kirkville R-III School District](#) in northern Missouri, used EPA EE grant funds to incorporate lessons about the food system and composting into existing programs for the Ray Miller Elementary School, their Early Childhood Learning Center students ages 2-4, and low-income residents of Kirkville. The program promoted waste reduction by increasing financial and volunteer support for composting operations at the Kirkville School District, Truman State University, and at a local Housing Authority. Additionally, the program aimed to reduce nutrition insecurity and increase access to healthy, locally grown food by working to expand community garden outreach.



Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (FASLP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$1,920,000 (Estimated FY 2025) | 8 awards anticipated | Award max \$240,000

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: NIFA

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7633)

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, university research foundations, other research institutions and organizations, federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, or corporations, individuals, or groups of eligible entities

STATE CONTACTS: FASLP National Program Leader

OVERVIEW

The Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP) is intended to increase knowledge of agriculture, improve the nutritional health of children, and to bring together stakeholders from the distinct parts of the food system to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as schools, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems.

FASLP projects are up to two years in duration and may include a wide range of activities that support and expand farm to school strategic planning, programming, promotion/marketing, curriculum, gardens, partnership development, and evaluation. Funds can also be used for training producers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and other food safety-related topics. The FASLP RFA specifically describes supporting farm to school activities, but ECE sites in school-based settings may be able to leverage this funding. No matching funds are required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about FASLP.](#)
- ▶ Explore the [most recent RFA to learn how to apply.](#)
- ▶ Check out [previously funded projects.](#)

TIMELINE

RFAs are typically **posted in October** with applications **due in December.**



Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: [\\$6.1 million \(FY 2024\)](#) | Award range \$75,000-\$350,000

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, as added by Section 12302 of the 2018 Farm Bill

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: City, county, or township governments, independent school districts, Native American Tribal governments and organizations, nonprofits, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, and special district governments

STATE CONTACTS: [Grants Management Specialist](#)

OVERVIEW

Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production Competitive Grants (UAIP) aim to support urban agriculture and innovative production practices that improve local food access, including, but not limited to, community gardens, urban farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforests, food forests, orchards, outdoor vertical production, green walls, indoor farms, controlled environment agricultural production, greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities. UAIP projects can include planning and implementation activities. No matching funds are required.

Planning Projects support the initiation or expansion of urban and suburban farming by stakeholders including farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, and schools, especially in areas with limited fresh food access. These projects address various needs like food access, education, start-up costs for new farmers, and the development of urban and urban agroforestry production policies. Implementation Projects focus on enhancing existing urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices that benefit multiple farmers.

These projects aim to improve local food access and involve collaboration with partner organizations. They may support infrastructure, emerging technologies, educational programs (including at ECE sites), and the implementation of urban farming policies.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production \(UAIP\) Competitive Grants](#), including USDA's [Fact Sheet](#).
- ▶ View the [FY 2024 RFA](#).
- ▶ Explore [grant success stories](#).
- ▶ Get answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

TIMELINE

The RFA is typically **posted in February** with applications **due in April or May**.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — Education (SNAP-Ed)

QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$538 million (Estimate for FY 2025)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: FNS

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

FUNDING TYPE: Annual grant, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State Agencies

STATE CONTACTS: [Implementing Agencies](#)

OVERVIEW

SNAP-Ed provides education, resources, and messaging within policy, systems and environmental-based interventions. The ultimate goal of SNAP-Ed is to increase “the likelihood that people eligible for SNAP will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles.” The USDA FNS distributes funds to state SNAP-Ed agencies who then disperse funds to more localized agencies to carry out programming. Agencies are eligible to implement SNAP-Ed programming if at least 50% of participants in the SNAP-Ed programming have incomes equivalent to 185% Federal Poverty Level. This means that Head Start and Early Head Start, as well as other ECE settings, can be eligible to receive funding to conduct SNAP-Ed services and could contact their nearest implementing agency to find out about accessing those resources.

SNAP-Ed funding can support a number of farm to ECE goals. For example, funds can be used to subsidize gardening materials like soil, shovels, and signage (excluding large infrastructure or equipment purchases), as well as taste tests and educational items. Funds can provide reimbursement up to \$4.99

per item/person. The program’s flexibility also means expenditures for staff time, office space, supplies, and startup operations can be covered. Funding uses are outlined in the implementing agency’s grant application, and any changes are approved by USDA. No matching funds are required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about [SNAP-Ed](#).
- ▶ Review SNAP-Ed Plan [Guidance and how to leverage farm to ECE to achieve SNAP-Ed goals and metrics](#).
- ▶ Confirm eligibility and contact the closest [implementing agency](#) to discuss opportunities.
- ▶ Browse [SNAP-Ed success stories](#), which include farm to ECE programming successes.
- ▶ Determine timeline for input on future grant applications to include farm to ECE.
- ▶ Encourage State agencies to include farms to ECE in their state plan.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Steps to Health | North Carolina State University

NORTH CAROLINA | \$26,250

Steps to Health is [North Carolina State University’s SNAP-Ed Program](#), administered through county-based North Carolina State Extension staff, community partners, and Extension Master Food Volunteers. The program focuses on healthy eating and physical activity through nutrition education and supporting behavioral changes with policy, system, and environment change initiatives, including farm to ECE activities. Recent farm to ECE activities include up to \$250 reimbursement to eligible sites to purchase approved garden supplies such as garden wagons, adult and child size tools, cooking materials. Additionally, Steps to Health funds staff time to introduce young children to local food using the [Color Me Healthy](#) curriculum, which includes taste tests and other projects to help children appreciate fresh produce.

SNAP-Ed’s farm to ECE work is interwoven into other funding streams in North Carolina, including North Carolina’s Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan ([see CCDF section on page 27](#)), which includes farm to ECE training as a priority for its use of quality dollars.

(continued on next page)

TIMELINE

Plans or updates to multi-year plans for implementing agencies are **due for submission in August** each year, with plan approvals typically **released in early October**. SNAP-Ed reports to the Education and Administration Reporting System are **submitted December 31st**. Importantly, plan amendments must be **received by May 1st**.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM – EDUCATION (SNAP-ED) CONTINUED

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

**AZ Health Zone | University of Arizona
SNAP-Ed Program**

ARIZONA | \$118,930

Arizona's Yavapai County SNAP-Ed educators incorporate farm to ECE into nutrition and gardening lessons for Head Start children, cooks, families, and directors. All 36 Head Starts in Yavapai County regularly receive nutrition education provided by SNAP-Ed educators in the county. The Yavapai County SNAP-Ed budget for FY21 budget was \$118,930. Given that the primary focus of Yavapai County Cooperative Extension SNAP-Ed is to deliver nutrition education and help implement health strategies in ECE sites related to food systems (gardens, access to healthy food, and education on nutrition), most of the annual funding supports farm to ECE. Funds support 1.5 FTE positions and garden supplies. The individuals in these positions lead farm to ECE trainings and professional development to ECE professionals, connect local growers with emergency food providers and organizations that donate local foods to Head Start families, demonstrate how to prepare local produce, and provide direct education and assistance to ECE professionals and community champions to build and maintain ECE fruit or vegetable gardens.

The SNAP-Ed educators devote time to developing partnerships with other organizations and participating in policy councils, community health partnerships, and farmers market meetings to make larger food systems changes in the county. Some funds are allocated to travel within Yavapai County, considering the county is approximately the same size, in square miles, as Massachusetts. SNAP Ed usually has enough funds to also build a couple of raised beds in ECE gardens each year.

Currently, Yavapai County has SNAP-Ed funding for five years, which they were awarded through a competitive process. They resubmit plans for the funds annually, but the county typically receives the same amount of funding each year for the five-year period. They anticipate continued and growing success with farm to ECE in Yavapai County Head Starts.



State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$75.5 million (FY 2023–2028) | 17 awards | Award range \$600,000-\$1.3 million

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Sections 301 and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act [42 USC 241(a) and 247(b)(k)(2), as amended]

FUNDING TYPE: Every 5 years, Cooperative Agreement, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State, county and city governments, Tribal governments and organizations, nonprofit organizations, independent school districts, small businesses, higher education institutions, public housing authorities, and others

STATE CONTACTS: SPAN2312@CDC.GOV

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Supporting Farm to ECE Infrastructure | Connecticut Department of Public Health

CONNECTICUT | \$33,700 | 2018–2023

Connecticut started farm to ECE efforts with a 20-site farm to ECE pilot in 2019, using Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant funding. The pilot was so successful, Connecticut added farm to ECE efforts to their SPAN grant. The state received roughly \$850,000 annually from SPAN and applied \$33,700 of that to support statewide farm to ECE infrastructure. SPAN funds supported 0.25 FTE dedicated staff time for farm to ECE, a portion of a Go Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (GO NAP SACC) subscription, farm to ECE implementation materials, and a contractor’s time for technical assistance.

(continued on next page)

OVERVIEW

CDC’s SPAN grant supports evidence-based interventions implemented at state and local levels to improve population health, nutrition, and physical activity. States agencies and other eligible entities can apply to SPAN to implement evidence-based strategies that increase access to healthy nutrition, opportunities for safe physical activity, and rates of breastfeeding initiation and continuation. CDC is currently funding 17 states to do this work, but previous iterations of this funding have spread a similar amount of funding among all states and the District of Columbia. No matching funds are required.

TIMELINE

The SPAN Request for Applications is **released every five years**. The **last funding opportunity announcement** was released in January 2023. Another SPAN RFA is anticipated in **2028**. The RFA is typically released from January-April with **applications due March-June** and notification in fall of that year.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the SPAN grant and its strategies.
- ▶ Explore current grant recipients.
- ▶ Learn more about CDC’s guidance on farm to ECE.



STATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION (SPAN) PROGRAM CONTINUED

Go NAPSACC is an online healthy eating, active living assessment tool for ECE sites, which includes a farm to ECE assessment module. SPAN funding supported the technical assistance provided to ECE staff using GO NAPSACC and provided funds to defray costs associated with farm to ECE best practices, like costs to build gardens or source local foods. [Connecticut's farm to ECE](#) program anticipated having 50 ECE sites implement farm to ECE, supported in part by SPAN.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

COLORADO | \$888,000 | 2023–2028

Colorado's CACFP State agency helped initiate Colorado's farm to ECE efforts in 2016 with a USDA Team Nutrition Grant, focusing on implementing gardens, nutrition education, and culinary coaching in ECE sites operating CACFP. As that wrapped up, the state braided multiple funding sources to continue their farm to ECE efforts. In 2023, Colorado applied for and received SPAN funding (\$888,000 annually) to support multiple healthy eating and active living strategies, including their farm to ECE efforts. Colorado is now utilizing SPAN funds, along with several other federal funds, to increase farm to child programs in the state to broadly increase local, healthy food access and build nutrition security in the most underserved communities. The current 5-year Colorado farm to Child plan includes continued support for the Farm to Child Collaborative, exploring nutrition, health and safety curricula requirements with Early Childhood Higher Education partners, supporting local procurement trainings, incorporating farm to child into the outdoor learning programs, and integrating resources into trainer networks and professional development.



Title V Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) Block Grant



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT:

State MCH funds: \$1.1 billion (FY 2022)

Federal MCH funds: \$507 million (FY 2022)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) MCH Bureau

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Title V of the Social Security Act

FUNDING TYPE: Annual federal block grant, 75% match required

ELIGIBILITY: States and Jurisdictions

STATE CONTACTS: [MCH Directory of State and Territory Contacts](#)

OVERVIEW

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a noncompetitive grant that 59 states and jurisdictions (states) receive. Funds from the Title V MCH Block Grant help improve the health and well-being of America’s mothers, children, and families, especially those with low-incomes or limited access to health care. In FY 2022, the Title V MCH Block Grant provided access to health care and public health services for an estimated 61.8 million people, including 93 percent of all pregnant individuals and 99.1 percent of infants. The Title V MCH Block Grant gives states flexibility in meeting the health needs of their children and families.

The Title V MCH Block Grant uses a three-level performance measure framework to help states annually report data on impact, progress, and results. The performance measure framework includes outcome measures, performance measures, and strategy measures. Each state is required by law to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment every five years to determine priority health needs and inform the state five-year action plan. For the five-year action plan, states identify 7-10 Title V MCH priority needs and select at least five national performance measures.

States are required to match every \$4 received with at least \$3 dollars, a 75% match required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about [Title V MCH Block Grant](#).
- ▶ View your state’s [Five-Year State Action Plan](#) and their breakdown of the [national performance measures selected](#).
- ▶ Find additional [background and funding information](#).
- ▶ View [MCH Block Grant Application/Annual Report Guidance](#) and [MCH Block Grant Supporting Documents](#).

TIMELINE

States apply annually for Title V funding. Every five years, states submit a needs assessment to inform a five year action plan. The last needs assessment was due in 2020. The next needs assessment is anticipated to be **due in 2025**.



Photo credit: MS Farm to School Network

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

COLORADO | \$100,000

Between 2012–2020, Colorado’s MCH Title V Block Grant funded an early childhood obesity prevention priority with strategies in ECE settings primarily focused on physical activity, breastfeeding, and nutrition. Colorado shifted their 2021–2025 Title V MCH Block Grant State Action Plan, to “upstream” priorities to improve early childhood health by addressing structural and systemic inequities and social conditions. This means that Colorado’s MCH Title V Block Grant work now includes improving access to local foods, under the new nutrition security strategy. As part of this plan, Colorado allocated about \$84,000 in staff time for farm to ECE efforts, \$7,000 for resource design and translation of a Colorado Farm to ECE Guide, \$800 for Spanish interpretation at farm to ECE coalition meetings, and \$8,000 for farm to ECE mini-grants for programs serving children and youth with special health care needs.

Preventative Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$168 million (FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: CDC, Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Public Health Service Act, The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981

FUNDING TYPE: Annual mandatory grant, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: States, Territories, American Indian Tribes, and Freely Associated States

OVERVIEW

The PHHS Block Grant is a mandatory grant given to 61 recipients (all states, the District of Columbia, two American Indian Tribes, five US territories, and three freely associated states) by Congress, annually. The PHHS Block Grant gives recipients the ability to address national health priorities in their jurisdictions with flexibility, innovation, and community input. Recipients have the autonomy to set their own goals and program objectives based on local needs and strategies that align with [CDC's Healthy People 2030](#) goals. No matching funds are required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the [PHHS Block Grant](#) and its [impacts](#).
- ▶ Read about the [diverse uses of the PHHS Block Grant](#).
- ▶ Explore the latest [2024 PHHS RFA](#).
- ▶ Consider your state's [Healthy People 2030](#) goals and contact the PHHS Block Grant Program Coordinator to discuss how farm to ECE can help attain those goals.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Creating Healthy Communities | Ohio Department of Health

OHIO | \$110,000

Ohio uses the flexible PHHS Block Grant (\$6.95 million for the whole state, FY 2021) to fund an impactful chronic disease prevention program, [Creating Healthy Communities](#). [Creating Healthy Communities](#) funded 22 Ohio counties where the greatest opportunities existed to improve poverty, food insecurity and access, and physical activity infrastructure. The awarded counties selected evidence-based strategies, to improve healthy eating or physical activity policies, systems, and environments, which included farm to ECE as a strategy. At least three Ohio counties implemented farm to ECE in their priority areas with [Creating Healthy Communities](#) funding. The PHHS Block Grant supported farm to ECE staff time both at the county and state level; and farm to ECE related travel, resources, training, and needed infrastructure changes to support increased ECE fruit and vegetable use and consumption. Additionally, it provided funds for farm to ECE implementation at ECE sites. In 2022, the Ohio block grant coordinator estimated that the PHHS Block Grant provides roughly \$110,000 in support.

TIMELINE

Funds are typically **awarded in September** of each year.



High Obesity Program (HOP)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$57 million (FY 2023–2028) | 16 awards made | Award range: \$500,000-\$1.2 million

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: CDC

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Section 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act)

FUNDING TYPE: Every 5 years, Cooperative Agreement, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: Land grant universities in eligible counties

CONTACT: [HOP Email](#)

OVERVIEW

The High Obesity Program (HOP) is a CDC-funded initiative that aims to make healthy eating and active living more accessible and affordable in counties where 40% or more of adults have obesity. CDC has funded HOP in three funding periods since 2014. HOP funding is available to land grant universities every five years. Universities work with community extension services to implement evidence-based strategies for: [ECE settings](#), [food and nutrition security through food service and nutrition guidelines](#) and [fruit and vegetable vouchers and produce prescriptions](#), [safe and accessible physical activity](#), and [family healthy weight programs](#).

Recipients leverage state investments, partnerships, and resources from sectors such as agriculture, transportation, education, healthcare, parks and recreation, business, housing, and defense to address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, or obesity. Farm to ECE is a specific strategy option outlined within the latest [2023 HOP RFA](#), stating a desired outcome of “increased local level ECE policies and activities that improve nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding standards and Farm to ECE programs”. No matching funds are required.



STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about HOP.](#)
- ▶ Explore [2023–2028 HOP recipient projects.](#)
- ▶ Review the [2023 HOP RFA.](#)

TIMELINE

The HOP RFA is released every five years. The last funding opportunity announcement was released in January 2023. Another HOP RFA is anticipated in **2028**. The RFA is typically released from **January-February** with **applications due in March-April** and notification in fall of that year.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES)

OHIO | \$500,000 | 2023–2028

As reported by the [Ohio State University \(OSU\) Extension](#), the [OSU College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences \(CFAES\)](#) was awarded a HOP grant in 2023. Their 5-year project will focus on two counties, Lawrence County and Fayette County. Among other strategies, their project aims to increase the number of ECE programs that are impacted by farm to ECE by implementing local level policies and activities to support purchasing, serving, and teaching about local foods in ECE settings.

The HOP grant provides ongoing support to an existing [Farm to ECE Coalition](#) to advance farm to ECE across the state. Over the next five years, the coalition will work in partnership with Fayette and Lawrence counties to provide technical assistance to local ECE sites on local food procurement, maximizing CACFP/reimbursement dollars for local food and on-site gardening in anticipation of replication across the state. The current timeline of the HOP grant includes:

- ▶ **Year 1:** Local assessments and landscape of ECE sites in the two counties, promotion of farm to ECE training, design, publication, and dissemination of the procurement guides, and review and edit Racial Equity Roadmap, adjusting short-, mid-, and long-term milestone to reach years 2–5.
- ▶ **Years 2–5:** goal setting, planning, and implementation.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$228 million (FY 2023) | 50 awards made | Award range \$500,000-\$1.5 million

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: CDC, DNPAO

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Public Health Service Act

FUNDING TYPE: Every 5 years, Cooperative Agreement, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: State and local health departments, Tribes, universities, and community-based organizations

CONTACT: [REACH email](#)

OVERVIEW

REACH is a CDC-funded program to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities or gaps. REACH celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2024. State and local health departments, Tribes, universities, and community-based organizations are eligible for REACH funds. Recipients plan and carry out local, culturally appropriate programs to address a wide range of health issues among Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native persons.

In rural, urban, and Tribal communities across the United States, REACH recipients use the following strategies as part of culturally tailored interventions designed to improve social and environmental conditions: increase options for good nutrition across the lifespan, promote community planning and transportation plans that create places for safe and accessible physical activity, prevent and reduce commercial tobacco use and connect clinical services to community programs that help people prevent and manage chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

REACH may be leveraged for farm to ECE activities under the “increased options for good nutrition across the lifespan strategy”. Recipients can use these funds

to build strong partnerships to guide and support the program’s work. In addition to funding, CDC provides expert technical assistance to REACH recipients to support their projects. No matching funds are required.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ [Learn more about REACH.](#)
- ▶ Explore [2023–2028 REACH recipient projects.](#)
- ▶ [Review the latest funding opportunity.](#)
- ▶ [View impacts across REACH communities.](#)

TIMELINE

The REACH Request for Application (RFA) is released every five years. The last funding opportunity announcement was released in February 2023. Another REACH RFA is anticipated in **2028**. The RFA is typically **released from January-March** with **applications due March-May** and notification in fall of that year.



Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: Discretionary: \$8.7 billion (FY 2024),
Mandatory Funding: \$1.4 billion

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Child Care

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 1990, reauthorized 2014

FUNDING TYPE: Ongoing, mandatory, matching, and discretionary funds

ELIGIBILITY: States, Territories, and American Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations

STATE CONTACTS: State Child Care Administrators

OVERVIEW

CCDF promotes high-quality, coordinated early childhood learning environments through subsidies for low-income children with parents who are working or engaged in educational opportunities. The program provides flexibility to states, tribes, and territories in meeting the needs of their children and families, promotes parental choice and consumer education about child care, and works to increase access to high-quality settings for low-income children. Funding supports both statewide subsidy programs, ECE quality improvement activities, and efforts focused on infant and toddler care.

Eligibility criteria for families and children, application and redetermination procedures, family payments, educator requirements, and ECE reimbursement rates are all policies determined at the state level. As states are required to submit 3-year state plans outlining their planned use of federal funds, language that supports or encourages farm to ECE activities can be incorporated. For example, relevant sections of the plan to highlight farm to ECE might include coordination with agencies responsible for CACFP and other relevant nutrition programs, information on training and professional development activities related to

nutrition/physical activity for the ECE workforce, and how quality funds can be used to support the development or adoption of program standards related to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development. Adoption of these activities, partnerships, and professional development opportunities in state plans can support the long-term sustainability and infrastructure necessary for farm to ECE.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about [CCDF](#).
- ▶ Participate in stakeholder engagement opportunities when states are preparing their three-year CCDF plans.
- ▶ Propose language for states' three-year CCDF plans that supports and aligns with farm to ECE activities.

TIMELINE

Every three years stakeholders have opportunities to comment on state CCDF plans. For FY 2025–2027 state CCDF plans are **due to ACF on July 1, 2024**.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education

NORTH CAROLINA | \$69.6 million total CCDF federal allocation for NC (FY 2021)

North Carolina's submitted CCDF Plan for 2022–2024 includes several references to farm to ECE/preschool. The plan specifically describes the various strategies to promote farm to ECE across sites under sections focused on the Coordination with Partners to Expand Accessibility and Continuity of Care; Public-Private Partnerships; Additional Consumer and ECE Provider Education; and Supporting Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce with CCDF Quality Funds. For example, the North Carolina state agency, Division of Child Development and Early Education, describes their involvement in the Farm to Preschool Network-Systems Change workgroup, the types of farm to ECE professional development activities to motivate ECE professionals to start farm to ECE, and the collaboration underway to add online farm to ECE training modules to state agency platforms. The plan also outlines ways that parents and ECE professionals can access information about farm to ECE through North Carolina's Cooperative Extension and the SNAP Ed program, and how to source locally produced foods with CACFP through the farm to CACFP "LearningBurst" webinar series, and other resources from the Center for Environmental Farming Systems Farm to ECE Initiative Website and the North Carolina Farm to Pre-school Network. Incorporating farm to ECE in the CCDF plan as NC has done, means they are able to dedicate CCDF funding to farm to ECE in their state.

Head Start and Early Head Start



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: [\\$12.3 billion](#) (FY 2024 with Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 Provision)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: ACF, Office of Child Care

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, expanded through Head Start Act of 1981, and reauthorized in The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, 2007

FUNDING TYPE: Ongoing

ELIGIBILITY: A local public or private nonprofit agency, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agency, within a community. Programs may operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and territories. Funds are also available to American Indian and Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs

CONTACTS: [Grantee Profiles](#)

OVERVIEW

Early Head Start (EHS), which serves pregnant women and children up to age three, and Head Start (HS), which serves children between the ages of three and five, provides comprehensive services focused on early learning and development, health, and family well-being for low-income families. Programs support school readiness through a variety of services and settings. Nationally, there are over [1,600 HS/EHS](#) agencies across local communities. Eligibility for HS/EHS is determined by the [HHS poverty guidelines](#), though foster children, children of homeless families, and those receiving public assistance such as TANF³ or SSI⁴ are also eligible.

As HS/EHS is a federally operated program, funding flows from HHS directly to state HS agencies and their grantees. As many of the farm to ECE goals around child nutrition and family engagement align with HS/EHS Performance Standards, partners can connect and collaborate with local agencies and grantees in their community to offer training, tools, and resources

to program directors and staff on the [natural alignment between farm to ECE activities HS/EHS program goals.](#)

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about [HS/EHS](#).
- ▶ Connect directly with HS/EHS grantees in your community about how farm to ECE aligns with their goals for child nutrition, family engagement and learning in the [Performance Standards](#) and [Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework](#).
- ▶ Learn how farm to ECE supports the goals of HS. See: [Supporting Head Start Programs with Farm to ECE Models](#); [Growing Head Start Success with Farm to Early Care and Education](#).
- ▶ Locate HS/EHS grantees in your community and build relationships with your [State Head Start Collaboration Office](#).
- ▶ For case studies showcasing farm to ECE success, see [Farm to Head Start Case Studies](#).

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

North Carolina State University Center for Environmental Farming Systems

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina's farm to ECE partners have had success engaging HS programs who were facing re-competition in 2019. This resulted in successfully incorporating farm to ECE training into a HS grant application. The Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) met with HS program directors and nutrition managers to make the case for farm to ECE as an innovative strategy that will distinguish their programs. They emphasized how farm to ECE work fits into their application process, by highlighting the types of resources and training support that is available. After the meeting, the CEFS training program coordinator developed and shared a farm to ECE training plan and budget for programs to include in the HS application. Ultimately, HS programs were able to increase their connections with local extension agents and other HS programs, farm to ECE toolkits and resources, and local nonprofit organizations. CEFS has an ongoing HS relationship, which includes continued farm to ECE training and professional development.

TIMELINE

The [Designation Renewal System](#) established **five-year grant periods** for HS awards. Any agency with a [specified condition](#) (deficiency) during the course of the grant period would re-compete for the next round of funding in their area. Competitions are made available through a [funding opportunity announcement \(FOA\)](#). Agencies without deficiencies receive additional five-year grants without competing.

³ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

⁴ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5)



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: [\\$315 million for FY 2024](#)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: HHS

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: ACF, Office of Early Childhood Development

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 created the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5)⁵

FUNDING TYPE: Dependent on federal funding cycles. Funds are distributed as 1-year planning grants or 3-year renewal grants

ELIGIBILITY: States and Territories

CONTACTS: [State Territory Map](#)

OVERVIEW

The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) provides federal grant funding for states to develop and implement policy changes that impact the entire early childhood system from birth to age five, including systems that overlap with early childhood such as health. Funding can aid in needs assessments, strategic planning, family engagement, workforce recruitment and retention, compensation, and more. Funding is appropriated by Congress to the HHS Administration for Children and Families, in consultation with the US Department of Education, then funneled to states and territories through a competitive grant process. PDG B-5 funding is available to states and territories as one-year planning grants or as three-year renewal grants. Planning grants focus on conducting needs assessments and drafting strategic plans, while renewal grants provide funding to implement the strategic plan developed during the planning grant.⁶ At the time of this report, 21 states had one-year planning grants and 21 states had three-year renewal grants.⁷

The grants focus on the quality, collaboration, and alignment of early childhood services, which provide opportunities to include health, nutrition, and food access. PDG B-5 represents a potentially untapped resource for the incorporation of farm to ECE in state ECE systems. Elements of farm to ECE—especially family engagement and nutrition education—could be incorporated or included in a state or territory’s PDG B-5 needs assessment, strategic plan, or statewide partners.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn whether your state or territory has a PDG B-5 grant, and what type, by accessing the [Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five \(PDG B-5\) page](#).
- » If your state or territory has a planning grant, look for opportunities to be involved in the needs assessment or strategic planning process. States often host community feedback sessions during the needs assessment. One approach to learning what your state or territory is doing could be to identify the grantee (listed on the PDG B-5 page above), access their webpage, and search for information on the state or territory’s PDG B-5 process.

EXAMPLE SPOTLIGHT

GEORGIA

Georgia’s initial PDG B-5 planning application (2019) included partners in the food system to support the working committee and needs assessment. One such partner, Georgia Organics, was included. The state’s PDG B-5 application noted the Georgia Organics farm to ECE program to promote healthy eating habits. Results from Georgia’s Needs Assessment indicated the need for increased professional development opportunities for ECE professionals on nutrition and physical education (and other topics).

In 2020, Georgia announced the state would receive a 3-year renewal grant for strategic planning. Though the state’s renewal application does not explicitly mention farm to ECE, it does include nutrition and physical activity as part of a 10-module training program for ECE providers. The training piece on nutrition and physical activity could incorporate farm to ECE elements as a strategy (e.g., professional learning to create on-site gardening, menu planning and meal preparation, how to incorporate local foods or offer taste tests, nutrition education for kids and families, and more).

- » If your state or territory has a renewal grant, find your state or territory’s PDG B-5 strategic plan to see if there are any projects that intersect with farm to ECE.
- ▶ Reach out to the [PDG B-5 partners in your area](#).
- ▶ Learn more about PDG B-5 through materials produced by the [National Technical Assistance Center for Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five \(PDG B-5\)](#).

TIMELINE

States and territories can (generally) expect that funding is available every **1-3 years** in alignment with the grant lengths.

⁵ Note that the PDG-5 differs from the “legacy” Preschool Development and Expand Grants that provided federal grant funding for states and territories to develop or expand state pre-k.

⁶ First Five Years Fund. (2024). [PDG B-5: The Program Overview](#)

⁷ [Preschool Development Birth through Five | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#).

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program



QUICK FACTS

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$197,080,000 (FY 2024)

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: USDA

ADMINISTERING OFFICE: Rural Development (RD)

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION: Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

FUNDING TYPE: Ongoing, Grants and low-interest direct loans, No match required

ELIGIBILITY: Public bodies, community based nonprofit organizations and Federally recognized Tribes that are in rural areas

STATE CONTACTS: State Rural Development Office

OVERVIEW

The Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program.

Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses. Essential community facilities relevant for farm to ECE and applicable for this funding stream include community support services such as child care centers, private schools, community centers, and local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

Funds are available as low interest direct loans and/or grants, as well as through the loan guarantee program, which is now streamlined under the OneRD Guarantee

Loan Initiative. There is preference given to small communities with a population of 5,500 or less and low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income. Matching funds are not required but preference is given to applications with cash matching funds.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- ▶ Learn more about the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program.
- ▶ To begin the application process, contact your local Rural Development office to discuss your specific project. Applications are accepted year round.
- ▶ Explore the Fact Sheet and Guidance Book for Applicants.

TIMELINE

- ▶ Applications are accepted **year round** and are approved on a rolling basis.



Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax: A Case Study of Boulder, Colorado

BOULDER | \$100,000

The Sugar Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Distribution Tax enacted in Boulder, Colorado, in 2017, places a two cents per ounce excise tax on the distribution of beverages with added sugar and other sweeteners. The tax is paid by the distributor of SSB products. Similar taxes are being adopted or discussed in other large U.S. cities. Revenue from this tax was \$2.5 million on average for FY 2020 and 2021. The revenue covers the tax's administrative costs, after which additional revenue is spent on health promotion and chronic disease prevention interventions that focus on low income residents and those most affected by chronic diseases linked to sugary drink consumption.

The city established the Health Equity Fund to allocate SSB Tax revenue in alignment with the legislative intent. The city defines health equity as “the absence of systematic health disparities based on socio-economic factors, and the ability of all residents to reach their full health potential, regardless of their life circumstances.” The Health Equity Fund provides a significant allocation of funds to support local farms to ECE in areas with most health disparities. These expenses include about 30 percent FTE, general operating expenses related to the program, farm to ECE incentives for ECE recruitment and participation, and farm to ECE materials. For 2022, the estimated Health Equity Fund request for farm to ECE was over \$100,000. The City of Boulder's Health Department augments the SSB funding with private foundation funds and state funding to support a nationally leading farm to ECE program in Boulder.



