

Franklin County Agriculture in the Classroom Grant

Summary and Background

U.S. graduates with expertise in food, agriculture, natural resources, and the environment are anticipated to fill only 61% of the expected 57,900 average annual agriculture-related employment openings. Research suggests that school gardening and other experiential agriculture instruction increase interest in and awareness of food systems and agriculture and related jobs and careers. School garden activities have been shown to promote healthy behaviors and improve students' academic achievement in science, math, language arts, and writing. School urban agricultural experiential learning can be tied into curriculum standards to be used not only in science education but in health, languages, math, and social studies. OSU Extension will cultivate relationships with schools for the purpose of creating experiential extensions of the classroom, focusing on Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), the fastest growing segment of Ohio's agriculture industry. The purpose will be to engage both teachers and students to normalize agriculture daily at school, in the classroom, providing engagement in the opportunities that agriculture provides as a career.

In summary, there is opportunity in agriculture. We do not grow as many agricultural students on farms as we did in the past, so our next generation of skilled agricultural professionals need to be grown from urban students on urban farms created at urban schools.

OSU Extension would like to acknowledge and provide sincere thanks to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for funding this grant project and prioritizing Franklin County youth.

This project aligns with the Columbus and Franklin County Local Food Action Plan Goal B: Improve Access to and education about healthy food, affordable food, and local food. Specifically: Goal B-12: Support the expansion of nutrition and food system education in pre-K-12 curricula.

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Program Parameters

- The purpose of the Franklin County Agriculture in the Classroom Grant is to create, develop, incentivize, fund, and support agriculture workforce and educational programs in Franklin County Pre-K-12 schools to train the next generation of farmers and growers and prepare students for the expanding career opportunities in the controlled-environment agriculture industry. OSU Extension is encouraged to (1) work with applicants to strengthen their proposals and (2) remain flexible to hearing what schools believe will help them best engage their students.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - All schools that engage Franklin County Pre-K-12 students are eligible, including public school districts, private school, charter schools, and career centers. School districts may submit multiple applications if each application is for a different individual school.
 - Priority will be given to schools serving socially and economically disadvantaged students as well as school serving students with disabilities. “Socially and economically disadvantaged” may refer to minoritized identity markers (e.g., race, ethnicity, nationality, immigration/refugee status) and/or low household income (e.g., using free and reduced lunch and/or the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index as proxies). “Students with disabilities” may include students living with multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, sensory loss, or autism.

Grant requests may fit into one of three Award Categories:

- Category 1 – Below \$5,000 – For startup programming in a new classroom or capacity building for a small school program
- Category 2 – \$5,000 - \$30,000 – For more advanced programs creating a deeper level of engagement and utilizing advanced infrastructure for higher grade levels
- Category 3 – Above \$30,000 – Very advanced and large-scale programs with complete institutional buy-in and a feasible long-term sustainability plan



Required Application Documents:1. Statement of Work

- Eligible applications will include:
- A full description of the project including the school's name, location, and district if applicable, responsible parties, grades to be engaged, and number of students engaged.
 - Please describe the teacher team that will implement the project.
- A sustainability statement laying out how the school will maintain the project beyond the grant cycle.
- A description of the growing space created and its intended use.
- The timeline for implementation of the agricultural engagement.

2. Budget and Budget Justification length and example:

- A budget and budget narrative describing how the funds will be used. Make sure to provide detailed budget costs instead of estimations for costs when possible. If hiring an external company to do work, get an estimate of costs from the company and include that estimate in the grant submission.
- Make sure that the budget is as accurate as possible. Avoid large round numbers that indicate that cost research was not done. Budget and Budget Justification will be evaluated as a major component of the RFP and the team involved at the school needs to match the budget goals in order to be successfully funded.
- The budget justification is a brief description of what each budgetary item will be used for. For example: lumber, nails, soil in a line item would have a justification line of materials for raised bed construction.
- See the allowable and non-allowable expenses list on pg.
- If you wish to include field trips but have not yet connected with the locations, please include the transportation costs to the budget pending that detail.
- If you wish to participate in scholarships and workshops, please indicate that in your budget pending confirmation of those details from OSU Extension.

3. Completed Subrecipient Letter of Intent – FAQ is at the end of the RFP for this document.4. Completed Subaward 3B document

Note: Documents 1 and 2 should be in Word, Excel, or PDF. Google documents shared via a link will not work well with OSU systems and email accounts. If you create a document using Google forms, please send an attachment instead of a link to a shared document. Please try to keep the length of the Statement of Work to one page and the Budget/Budget Justification to one page also. I am available to answer questions regarding budgetary expenses at mcdermott.15@osu.edu. In some cases, an RFP may be reviewed and sent back to the applicant for further revision.

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Examples of allowable purchases include but are not limited to:

- Materials for creation of raised beds including soil, lumber, hardware, fertilizer, seeds, hand tools, irrigation equipment, and season extension materials
- CEA (Controlled Agriculture Environment) materials for indoor propagation including LED lighting, pots, trays, seed starting mix.
- CEA hydroponic growing materials including hydroponic units, fertilizer, seeds, seed pods, timers, extension cords, power strips.
- Materials to support nutrition in the classroom using student grown produce such as air fryers, cutting boards, serving utensils, bowls, supplemental food, and cookware. (must be limited to a small percentage of total grant request)
- Other materials to support the in ground or in classroom growing, including curriculum materials.
- Field trips to agricultural organizations for the purpose of experiential learning
 - Field trips can be to OSU Waterman Farm or to other partner organizations that engage in agriculture including but not limited to: Mid-Ohio Farm on the Hilltop, Franklinton Farms, Highland Youth Garden, Franklin Park Conservatory, etc.
- Labor costs for installing, constructing, and otherwise implementing new infrastructure paid for by the grant.
- Additionally, there will be continuing educational/professional development opportunities that are being developed and scheduled including:
 - All day or multi-day experiential workshops in hydroponics in Columbus
 - Scholarships to attend hydroponic learning events in Columbus or other locations in Ohio
 - Details about these will be shared when available.
 - Letters of attendance will be shared so that PD CEU's can be obtained.

Examples of ineligible uses for the grant include but are not limited to:

- Programmatic labor costs (e.g., teacher salaries or wages for other school personnel)
- Vehicles for transportation. (bus costs for field trips are permitted)

Please direct questions regarding allowable or non-allowable to mcdermott.15@osu.edu

Awardees will submit an end of academic-calendar report detailing:

1. Overall scope and impact of the project, including number of classrooms and students engaged
2. Any challenges or issues they faced,
3. Needs and plans for future sustainability of the project.

Applicants will submit applications at any time during an open, rolling grant cycle. Grantee (OSU) will review applications and make funding decisions on at least a quarterly basis, assuming sufficient applications from eligible entities. An Advisory panel of local stakeholder partners will be created to assist as needed with grant review and feedback.



Additional Information:Subrecipient Letter of Intent FAQ Information:

The introduction section is already populated by OSU, the issuing institution.

- A. Subrecipient Institution – Check with your grant administrator to see if you are already part of the FDP Expanded Clearinghouse. Some schools that have received federal grants in the past may already be a participant. You probably are not a Clearinghouse participant but check with your grant administrator to be sure. The grant administrator for the school will know if you have an UEI/DUNS grant number as well. You need to fill out the Administrative contact's name, likely your grant person or Principal. The teacher leader for the application fills out the Subrecipient PI (principal investigator) Name. **Make sure to populate all open boxes in this section.**
- B. This section is prepopulated, no extra needs done.
- C. This section is prepopulated, no extra needs done.
- D. Please fill this out completely. This may be the school fiscal, principal, etc..
- E. **This section needs to be completely filled out other than the two boxes with N/A.** Please make sure that every section in E is addressed.
- F. Likely none of the boxes in F will need to be checked other than what is already checked. If you have questions about this, please contact me.

Send any questions about this application to mcdermott.15@osu.edu

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