

FY15 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

Department: United States Department of Agriculture

Agency: Food and Nutrition Services

Program: Child Nutrition Programs

Programs with PZ Benefits:

Farm to School Grant Program

Farm to School (F2S)

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school>

Benefit Type: Grants and Technical Assistance

Eligible Communities: Urban, Rural, Tribal

Benefits to Promise Zone: Farm to School (F2S) grants take into consideration “Agency priorities”; projects that serve a high proportion of children who are eligible for free or reduced price meals; geographic diversity; and innovative projects. Projects identified and deemed eligible under the proposed Promise Zones Initiative may benefit from the consideration already afforded to these types of projects.

Eligible Applicants: Grantees include schools and districts (large and small, rural and urban), Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, non-profit entities, and state and local agencies. Eligibility varies by grant type. See grant type description for specific requirements.

Funding Availability: FNS will publish the FY 2015 RFA on March 16, 2015, training grant letters of intent are due April 30, 2015, and applications for support service, implementation and planning grants must be submitted by May 20, 2015. Proposals are reviewed throughout the spring and summer. Grants will be awarded to selected grantees near the start of the federal fiscal year, which begins in October. Grants range on the low end from \$20,000 to \$45,000 and on the high end from \$65,000 to \$100,000. In all cases, grant awards are capped at \$100,000. Applicants for all grants are required to provide matching support of at least 25 percent of the total project budget in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

Program Description: The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. In this funding round, USDA is soliciting applications for four types of grants:

1. **Planning grants** are intended for school districts or schools just starting to incorporate farm to school program elements into their operations
2. **Implementation grants** are intended for school districts or schools to help scale or further develop existing farm to school initiatives.
3. **Support Service grants** are intended for state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with school districts or schools to further develop existing farm to school initiatives and to provide broad reaching support services to farm to school initiatives.
4. **Training grants** are intended to support state, regional and national trainings that have a specific emphasis on developing supply chain relationships by connecting local producers to school food buyers. USDA will also consider requests to support trainings that provide technical assistance or other programming in the area of local procurement, food safety, school gardens, culinary education, and/or integration of agriculture-based curriculum.

Target Population:

- ◆ *Planning, Implementation and Support Service Grants*—Funding is intended for projects that will ultimately benefit K-12 students from schools that participate in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Programs. Children of Urban and Rural Areas.
- ◆ *Conference and Event Grants*—Entities that can support conferences, events and trainings that strengthen farm to school supply chains, or conferences, events and trainings that provide technical assistance in the area of local procurement, food safety, culinary education and integration of agricultural-based curriculum.

Webinars: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/webinars>

Request for Applications (CFDA#: 10.575): http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/FY2016_FSGP_RFA.pdf