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## MEMORANDUM

TO: All USDA Programs  
FROM: DCCECE / HNU  
DATE: 11/08/2021  
SUBJECT: Farm to School Grant Opportunities



The following information has been provided to the Health and Nutrition Unit from the Arkansas Farm to School Newsletter for November 2021 regarding available grant opportunities. Please see attached newsletter below for more information on how to apply for available grants.

- **Arkansas School Garden Grant Program**
- **Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program**
- **Youth Garden Grant**

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Please keep this memo on file for quick and easy reference. A copy is also available on the resource library under **Mass Alerts 2021**. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact your Program Specialist at: 501-682-8869.



# Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program

## November 2021

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program is committed to providing equitable and just programming, resources, funding, and technical assistance to schools, farmers, and partners in the local food system.

### Applications Now Open for Arkansas Farm to School Grants

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the second-annual **Arkansas School Garden Grant Program** and the new **Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program** to help schools start or expand farm to school activities. The grant programs are available to public and private K-12 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments. All eligible schools are encouraged to

## FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS AND FUNDING

Applications are now open and will close on November 30, 2021.

**Arkansas School Garden Grant Program**

Schools can apply for a \$500 grant to start or expand their school garden. A total of 60 school garden grants will be awarded.



**Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program**

Schools can apply for a \$250 grant to host school-wide cafeteria taste tests. A total of 60 taste test grants will be awarded.





apply, whether they already have existing farm to school activities or they are just getting started with school gardens and local procurement.

Applications for both grants will be accepted through November 30, 2021. More information about the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program and Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program can be found at:

[agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture/farm-to-school/](https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture/farm-to-school/) or by contacting Erica Benoit at [erica.benoit@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:erica.benoit@agriculture.arkansas.gov) and Shannon Newerth-Henson at [shannon.henson@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:shannon.henson@agriculture.arkansas.gov).

[Apply Here](#)

## 2021 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest Winners Announced



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas announced the 2021 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year contest winners. Congratulations to the 10 winning schools on this achievement!

- Best Start-up School Garden Proposal, \$500 Awards: Blevins High School and Quitman Elementary School
- Best Education Based School Garden, \$500 Awards: Ouachita Elementary School and Sheridan Elementary School
- Best Harvest Partnership School Garden, \$500 Awards: The Delta School and First Friends Preschool
- Best Community Collaboration School Garden, \$500 Awards: Ozark Junior High School and Retta Brown ABC
- Best Overall School Garden, \$1,000 Award: Cedarville Elementary School
- Champion of School Garden Sustainability, \$1,000 Award: Forest Park Elementary School

Find the official press release announcing this year's winners [here](#).

Watch the announcement video [here](#)!



## 2022 USDA Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA)



**Amount: up to \$500,000**

**Deadline: January 10, 2022**

The 2022 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) is now available! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) seeks to award up to \$12 million this fiscal year. Eligible schools, institutions operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program, State and local agencies, Indian Tribal Organizations, small- to medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- to medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit organizations are eligible for Farm to School grants.

[Please see the RFA for full details.](#) The Office of Community Food Systems will host webinars [Monday, November 8th, 2021](#) and [Tuesday, November 9th, 2021](#), each at 2:30pm ET, to help interested applicants learn more about the RFA and put together a grant package, respectively.

Additional information is available through the [Farm to School Grant Applicant Resources Page](#) of the FNS website.

[Learn More Here](#)

## Growing My Plate Survey Results

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council – Full Circle FarmCorps, and AmeriCorps VISTA, compiled survey findings for the Growing My Plate courses delivered by Full Circle



FarmCorps members in the summer of 2021. The Growing My Plate program empowers students with cooking skills, nutrition knowledge, and a desire to prepare healthy foods. Results of the Growing My Plate Survey were released in October and are available [here](#).

## Grants and Funding

### Youth Garden Grant

*Amount: \$1,050 – \$2,200*

*Deadline: December 17, 2021*

A total of 50 programs will be awarded Youth Garden Grants in 2022. All winning programs will receive a check for \$250, and materials to grow their garden program. Forty programs will receive packages worth \$1,050, five programs will receive the base package plus a \$1,000 tool grant from Corona Tools, and five programs will receive the base package plus two Garden Towers from Garden Tower Project! Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States or US Territories planning a new garden program or



expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply.

[Learn More Here](#)

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## Training Opportunities

### **Regional School Garden Support Models**

[Register Here](#)

*November 17, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. CT*

Are you seeking ways to more effectively support a large or larger number of school gardens? Discussion will include activities that regional support organizations provide and sharing of a framework to enhance your work supporting multiple school gardens. In preparation for this webinar, please complete this [template](#).



[Visit Our Website](#)

