

2021 Rapid Response: NC Farm to Summer Funding



In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our communities and schools, The Farm to School Coalition of NC (F2SCNC) and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) want to honor the dedication of School Nutrition Programs, Educators, and community organizations to meet the nutritional and educational needs of our children during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Because we believe Farm to School (F2S) contributes to both the wellbeing of our kids and to community food security, we seek to support our partners in meeting urgent needs and building farm to school capacity.*

The F2SCNC and CEFS are offering farm to summer support funding of \$1000 to \$2000 (variable depending on numbers served) to School Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and Community Organization Sponsors operating N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs to feed children in need. We will distribute up to 20 mini-grants for up to \$40,000 total. To receive the funding, each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements, agree to the recipient responsibilities, and submit a short application by April 19th. For online information about this funding, go to [CEFS F2S page](#).

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants** must participate in 2021 National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, or Seamless Summer Option, or Summer Food Service Program in North Carolina and can be either
 - An approved Community Organization Sponsor for Summer Food Service Programs *Sponsors* who are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or have a secured entity (fiscal agent, community organization, 501(c)3 org, etc) that can receive and disburse the funds, **OR**
 - *North Carolina K-12 Local Education Agencies (LEAs)*, public school districts and charter schools.

2021 TIMELINE:

- **April 19th** – online APPLICATIONS DUE (questions or access issues to tes_thraves@ncsu.edu; we estimate less than 1 hour to complete)
- **April 21st** – applicants notified by this date or possibly sooner
- **3pm, April 23rd** – all FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERWORK DUE, including W-9 forms, direct deposit information, and invoices
- **July 15th** – funds delivered to recipients
- **July 19th-23rd** – all recipients celebrate farm to summer week
- **July 28th (or tbd)** – cohort call (1 hour) for all *2021 Rapid Response NC Farm to Summer Funding*
- **September 24th** – summary report due to include a description of how the funds were used, a brief narrative of activities and impacts, and 3-5 photos and/or a video of the project

SELECTION: Funding awards will be based on eligibility, activities that fit in the following categories, and the extent to which you address the priority areas.

ACTIVITIES fit within the following categories (one or more):

- local food purchasing* for summer meals or children connection to local food/farmers,
- local food infrastructure* (human or built) to better incorporate local foods and/or strengthen below priority areas (equipment, trainings, team development, new partnerships, etc),
- local food promotion* of local summer produce, local farmers from whom you are procuring food, and/or benefits to the community and environment of local purchasing, **AND/OR**
- local foods educational programming* (gardens, cooking, other education efforts) in ways that increase the skills, knowledge, and connection to local foods for children and families.

PRIORITY AREAS (*ideally all three areas will be addressed through your chosen activity/ies*)

- ❑ **Establishing and Addressing high need.** You will define and explain your assessment of high need in your school, for your children, in your community. You might define by the potential number of low-income, highly vulnerable children to be reached; potential impact of farm to school and community connections through the project; stretched capacity of the LEA and/or School Nutrition/Summer Nutrition Program; and/or other determinants created by COVID-19.
- ❑ **Building long-term capacity in farm to school** through relationship/team building, infrastructure development, environmental efforts, policy development. See [Building Capacity in Farm to School handout](#) with suggestions and resources.
- ❑ **Advancing Racial Equity** through developing policies, presentations, partnerships, and trainings, as well as other approaches. See [Advancing Racial Equity in Farm to School handout](#) with suggestions and resources.

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES (*missed deadlines will forfeit participation*):

- **Submit a completed application on time:** A completed [application](#) is submitted by 5pm on Monday, April 19th, 2021
- **Submit complete financial documentation on time:** All administrative paperwork, including W-9 forms, direct deposit information, and invoice due by 3pm on Friday, April 23rd
- **Conduct activities** during summer and celebrate Farm to Summer Week, July 19th-23rd
- **Collective Engagement:** Awardees will participate in a collective call soon after farm to summer school celebration week, to share learnings and ideas on f2s capacity building priorities for the state
- **Complete a short evaluation:** The awardee completes a brief report of the project by Friday, September 24th, 2021. The final report should take approximately 1 hour to complete and will include how funds were used, a narrative of activities/impacts, and 3-5 photos and/or a video

TO APPLY: Please submit the [online form](#) by 5pm on Monday, April 19th, 2021. Programatic and application questions to tes_thraves@ncsu.edu.

GRANTEE Financial PAPERWORK:

Past funding recipients – If your LEA or Community Organization is a past recipient of funding from CEFS or the F2SCNC, our team will confirm that the information we have on record is accurate and request any other necessary information.

New funding recipients – New recipients will receive [guidance on completing paperwork](#) including a W9 and ACH form using Sharebase, a safe online platform for sharing sensitive information. We will ask you to complete and upload these forms along with a voided check or direct deposit authorization form to your Sharebase folder. **These forms should reflect the organization who will receive the funds.**

The Farm to Summer Initiative encourages N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs to serve local foods as part of meals and snacks offered to children, teach about local agriculture to children participating in summer meals programs, share Farm to Summer activities on social media. We encourage all to sign up for the N.C. Crunch Farm to School Month in October. A [Farm to Summer toolkit](#) with tips and resources is available from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Services.

The [Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina](#) (F2SCNC) brings together a group of farm to school (F2S) stakeholders that collaborate to expand and strengthen farm to school initiatives across the state. F2SCNC envisions a vibrant and robust food system whereby everyone affiliated with the school community has knowledge of and access to locally produced, nutritious foods, resulting in healthier citizens, communities, and economies.

Thank you for your application and your work supporting NC Children. We thank Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina for making this response possible and for their continued support of farm to school as a strategy for both wellness and community food security.



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OVERVIEW of APPLICATION CONTENT

The application is available online and must be completed online, but for your review, the questions on the application are as below:

Contacts, Logistics, and Demographics

- The names and contact info for Project Lead, School Administrator (LEA) / Superintendent or Organization ED (not-for-profit), Nutrition Administrator (if LEA application), and Finance and Business / Accounting Administrator (who will handle paperwork for funds)
- If you have previously received funding from CEFS
- Estimate of how many children (and families) will be reached/impacted
- If your farm to summer school activities be conducted LEA-wide and if so, how many schools will be participating
- The percentage of students in your LEA who qualify for free and reduced-price meals
- The racial demographics of the children who will be served

Check what activities will include (check all that apply)

- local food purchasing* for school meals or student connection to local food/farmers,
- local food infrastructure* for increased long-term capacity to incorporate local foods (equipment, trainings, team development, new partnerships, etc),
- local food promotion* of local summer produce, local farmers from whom you are procuring, and/or benefits to the community and environment of local purchasing,

AND/OR

- local foods educational programming* (gardens, cooking, other education efforts) in ways that increase the skills, knowledge, and connection to local foods for children and families

Narrative questions

1. Describe what you will do.
2. Explain the high need in your community/school district and how your activities will address these.
3. Explain how your activities will build long-term capacity in farm to school.
4. Explain how your activities will advance racial equity in farm to school.

NOTIFICATION

You will receive notification of your application status via email as soon as possible, but by 3pm on April 21st. If your application is accepted, Financial documents will need to be uploaded to ShareBase by 3pm on April 23rd, and the sooner the better. We highly encourage you to have these documents ready when you submit your application so you can upload immediately upon notification.

QUESTIONS?

Financials Questions - Access to ShareBase will be sent to you by Dallas Goodnight, dlgoodni@ncsu.edu and any questions about financial documentation and payments can also go to Dallas directly—subject line **Local Food farm to summer school Funding**.

Programtic or Application Questions - Send general application questions, concerns, or queries to tes_thraves@ncsu.edu—subject line **Local Food farm to summer school Funding**. More at [CEFS F2S](#).