

Vermont Farm to School Grant Program - FAQ's

Who do I contact to get more details about this application?

For questions regarding the Planning & Pilot and Implementation Grants, as well as general Grant Program questions, contact Ali Zipparo at:

Phone: 802-505-1822

Email: alexandra.zipparo@vermont.gov

For questions regarding the Universal Meals Grant, contact Jennifer Porter at:

Phone: 802-661-8201

Email: jennifer.porter@vermont.gov

Do I budget for technical assistance for these grants?

For Planning Grants there is technical assistance, free to schools, from a select group of farm to school service providers that is a required part of the grant program.

For Implementation Grants there is not any free technical assistance, nor is it required. If technical assistance is desired, you must budget for it. You must, however, demonstrate prior training, planning, and initial development of a Farm to School Program.

For Universal Meals Grants there is technical assistance, free to schools, that is a required part of the grant program.

Why are there three types of Farm to School Grants?

Successful Farm to School programs require planning before implementation. Planning & Pilot Grants are intended to help schools prepare to implement a successful Farm to School program. Implementation Grants are intended to support schools in the execution of their plan will not be considered if there has been no prior Farm to School project planning. The Universal Meals Grant is a new opportunity for schools to access financial and technical assistance support as they transition to a universal meals model.

Do I have to involve our Wellness committee?

Any Farm to School program committee should be working with, or be a sub-committee of, your district/school Health/Wellness Committee. Some schools have created their own Farm to School Committee for the project. It is strongly encouraged that wellness policies incorporate Farm to School into the document as much as possible.

What if we don't have an active Wellness committee?

Most districts created a school or district Wellness Committee as part of the development of the required by the 2006 federal Wellness Policy. If a committee is not currently operating in your district, be sure to explain how your Farm to School initiative ties into your health or wellness policy. In order to receive a grant, you must have a Farm to School project committee.

Do I need to keep track of what VT products the school meal program buys as a result of the Implementation Grants?

Yes. Sample tracking forms can be provided to schools receiving grants. It is important that schools provide adequate information about Vermont foods purchased through the grant.

How do we continue our Farm to School program in our second year?

Planning for program sustainability should always be considered from the very beginning and included in your application. Many schools have found it helpful to have one or more people focused on seeking local funds to sustain your program. Schools have applied for new grants, taken part in creative fundraising and even included Farm to School in the school budget. Many past grantee schools now include Farm to School in their regular school budget, as a result of the success of their Farm to School program on the classroom, cafeteria and community.

If we receive a grant, what if our objectives or activities change during the grant period?

You need to outline your changes and reasons why, and the budget changes in a letter to VAAFMM before you pay for these new items or services.