



MASSACHUSETTS
FARM TO SCHOOL

The Massachusetts FRESH Grant

Information Session December 2022



Massachusetts Farm to School Overview

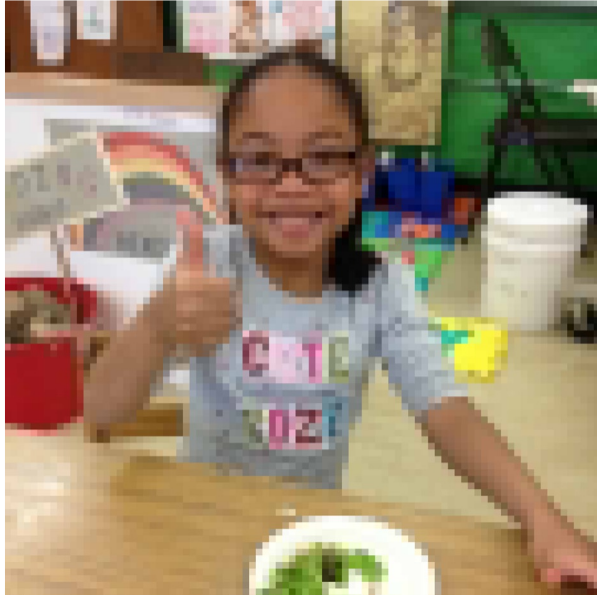
Mass. Farm to School strengthens local farms and fisheries and promotes healthy communities by increasing local food purchasing and education at schools.

Get involved through our:

- Professional learning opportunities
- Networking
- Policy/Advocacy
- Communications



The “3 Cs” of Farm to School



Classroom



Cafeteria



Community

Funding Opportunity Overview: Massachusetts FRESH



The Massachusetts FRESH Grant (*Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health*)

- **New** statewide farm to school and farm to early care grant program
- Administered by the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- Funded with COVID Recovery Funds - \$1M total
- DESE anticipates awarding \$300,000 of grants in this first round of funding

Eligibility: Massachusetts FRESH

Applicants must be sponsors of:

- The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or
- Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP).

Eligible entities include:

- K-12 schools
- Early education centers
- Government, for profit, and community-based organizations that sponsor NSLP or CACFP



Grant Award Tracks: Massachusetts FRESH

Grant Track	Grant Size	Applicant	Objectives
Significant Investment	Up to \$50K	Any NSLP or CACFP Sponsor	To support sustainable plans to integrate farm to school into their Child Nutrition Program or curriculum.
K-12 Farm to School Startup/Expansion	\$5,000 – \$25,000	NSLP sponsors	To support the startup or expansion of farm to school programming in the K-12 setting
Early Education Farm to School Startup/Expansion	\$5,000 – \$25,000	CACFP sponsors	To support the startup or expansion of farm to school programming in the Early Education Setting

Project Activities: Massachusetts FRESH



Eligible Activities

Grants are designed to fund the startup or expansion of farm to school/farm to early care activities, including, but not limited to:

- kitchen equipment used to prepare local food for school meals and snacks including, but not limited to, local, fresh produce, meats, seafood and dairy items
- training school kitchen staff in preparing fresh meals using local ingredients and in procuring such ingredients
- training educators and other school/early care staff in adding or integrating food system lessons to their curriculum
- infrastructure and programming for curricular and extracurricular activities, such as school gardens, for students to learn about agriculture and the food system

Timeline: Massachusetts FRESH

Application Timeline

Applications will be accepted by through 5pm on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023.

Funds will be dispersed in the early spring of 2023.

Project Duration

Applicants can submit proposals of up to 18 months in duration.

Funds can split over the fiscal years FY2023 & FY2024 (FY23 ending 06/30/23)



Application Process: Massachusetts FRESH

Access the complete application package at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/715/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/715/>. The page header includes the **dese** logo (Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and navigation links for [Security Portal](#) and [School Profiles](#). A yellow banner reads: "Stay informed about COVID-19 and the latest health and safety guidance for school districts". A dark blue navigation bar contains a menu icon, the text "Most Requested:", and links for [Licensure](#), [Learning Standards](#), [MCAS](#), [Educator Evaluation](#), and [MTEL](#), followed by a search box. The main content area is titled "Grants and Other Financial Assistance Programs" and features a sidebar with a list of categories: Accounting & Auditing, Chapter 70 Program, Charter Schools, Circuit Breaker, Educational Collaboratives, DESE Budget, Grants/Funding Opportunities (with sub-items: Current Grants, Previous Grants, Allocations & Awards), Nutrition Programs, Regional Districts, and School Buildings. The main content displays the following information:

FY2023: MA Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health (FRESH)

Fund Code: 715

Purpose: The purpose of this state funded competitive grant program is to encourage existing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Child Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) sponsors to build capacity to grow or purchase locally grown and produced ingredients, prepare nutritious scratch-cooked meals and educate students about the food system.

Priorities: Competitive priority will be given to schools and early education providers who prepare meals from scratch with high percentages of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch and shall aim to promote geographic equity. Additional competitive priority will be given to districts and schools in chronically underperforming status and the Strategic Transformation Region

Eligibility: Existing NSLP or CACFP sponsors, including School Food Authorities, government, for profit, and community-based organizations may apply. If an organization would like to apply to become a sponsor of NSLP or CACFP email Nutrition@doe.mass.edu.

Application Process: Massachusetts FRESH

- Email a completed application with required forms and supporting documents to MAFRESH@mass.gov
- Any school staff member can complete and submit the grant application.
- The grant funds will be distributed through the school nutrition department.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/715/>. The page content is as follows:

Date Due:	Tuesday January 31, 2023*	English
	Proposals must be received at the Department by 5:00 p.m. Eastern on the date due.	
	*All responses must be received by the due date listed above. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Responses not submitted on time will not be reviewed. Applicants applying after the due date may be notified their application was received late and will not be reviewed. Applications must be submitted as directed in the Submissions Instructions below. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. If you need assistance with submitting your application, please reach out to the contact person listed on this funding opportunity.	
Required Forms:	Part I — General — Program Unit Signature Page — (Standard Contract Form and Application for Program Grants) Part II — Budget Details Part III — Required Program Information	
Additional Information:	Child Nutrition Program Sponsor awardees will adhere to all Federal, State, and Local procurement laws and standards, including, if applicable, as found in 7 CFR Part 210.21 and 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.326 All equipment competitively procured using these grant funds must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable. State Contract User Guide	
Submission Instructions:	Email a completed application with all required forms and supporting documents to MAFRESH@mass.gov . Within three business days of receipt, you will receive a confirmation email.	
	Awarded Recipients: Upon award, recipients will be required to enter the approved budget and Part I in EdGrants. Once selected, recipients will be contacted with further instructions on the process.	

Application Support: Massachusetts FRESH



More Information & FAQs:

<https://mafoodformakids.org/farm-to-school-grant>

Individualized Support for applicants:

- MFTS is providing 1-on-1 coaching for your farm to school grant application
- Sign up for a 20 min coaching session in January for support with specific application questions



Q&A

MA FRESH Grant Application:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/715/>

More MA FRESH Grant Information:

<https://mafoodformakids.org/farm-to-school-grant>

Farm to School Resources:

www.massfarmtoschool.org

Get In Touch:

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