MASSACHUSETTS FARM TO SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: MA FRESH PROGRAM EVALUATOR

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q)

Does the 10-page limit include staff resumes and/or references?
No, included staff resumes and/or references can exceed the 10-page proposal limit and are not counted as part of the page limits.

Which FRESH grant funding cycles/fiscal years are considered within the scope of evaluation, and approximately how many total grantees, applicants, and non-applicant contacts will be included in the evaluation?
The Grant Program reports and awardee lists are posted online (at the bottom of the page). As of fall 2026, DESE has administered five FRESH Grant funding rounds, awarding $4,010,397.00 to 96 schools and early education programs across 167 awards. Throughout this period 370 applications were received. We hope to include all 4 years of awardees in the evaluation (and potentially the applications of FY27 if applicable/possible).

Will you consider consultants based outside Massachusetts to perform the work remotely? Is any in-state travel or in-person engagement expected?
We don't require consultants to be located in MA and anticipate this process to be primarily/exclusively done remotely. If an in-person opportunity arises that could advance the project, it can be discussed at that time.

Is the referenced DESE Farm to School Road Map finalized and can a summary of its key findings be shared?
The MA Farm to School Roadmap process is currently being finalized with a goal to have a final draft for release by the end of the calendar year (2026).

Is the expectation to evaluate both the MA FRESH Grant program and the MA FRESH CORP Grant program?
Yes, we would like to receive proposals that would evaluate both the FRESH and FRESH CORP grant program.

Will DESE share MA FRESH applications, final reports, and contact information for unfunded applicants with the evaluator?
We anticipate DESE will share the information needed to complete the evaluation with the selected team/individual and provide 'introductions' when appropriate for data collection.