



Dig In! Seed Grants

Available now
for the 2025/26
school year!



Guidelines for Applicants

About the Guidelines

This document provides guidelines for those considering applying for a Seed Grant for the 2025/2026 school year. These grants are provided by Farm to Cafeteria Canada in partnership with The Schad Foundation. Full grant details are available on our [website](#).

Funds available

Farm to Cafeteria Canada will award one-time grants, of **between \$500 and \$3,000**, to an estimated **30 schools** across the country. The total number of grants distributed will depend on the individual amounts requested. Project activities must be implemented by June 2026.

Eligibility

Applications are open to schools (kindergarten to grade 12) across Canada. Schools in Indigenous communities/nations and schools that serve a high proportion of low-income, racialized or other equity-seeking communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please email grants@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca if you have questions or would like support submitting your application.

Applications will NOT be accepted from:

- School boards or community organizations
 - *Both can be important partners for school projects and are welcome to support schools with their applications, but they are not eligible to receive the funds.*
- Schools that received a grant from Farm to Cafeteria Canada within the last 12 months

Definitions

We refer to a number of terms throughout the grant guidelines including “healthy food”, “farm to school”, “sustainably produced food”. To understand how we are defining these terms, please visit our [Glossary](#).

Access more information about the grants on our [website](#).

How to Apply: 1. Read guidelines & 2. Complete and submit the [online application form](#)

What are the Seed Grants?

Seed Grants provide schools with access to funds, knowledge and inspiration to ‘Dig in’ to farm to school by making small, positive changes in their school food environments. They are best suited for schools that are looking to get started, although schools that have an existing project that could use a boost are also eligible to apply. Seed Grants can serve as an excellent stepping stone to our [Farm to School Canada Grants program](#).

The Farm to School Approach* is about bringing healthy, local food into schools, strengthening the local food system and enhancing school and community connectedness while providing students with hands-on learning opportunities that foster food literacy.

Schools that receive a Grant share a commitment to improving their school food environments and getting started on their farm or local food to school journeys.

***Note:** The term “Local food to school” can be used instead of “farm to school.” This term is preferred in some regions and Indigenous communities. It reflects the diversity of local and traditional foods that can be enjoyed in schools from coast to coast to coast, many of which are not sourced from a farm.

Key dates

September 8, 2025	Grant application window OPENS
October 20, 2025	Grant application window CLOSES (11:59pm PST)
December 1, 2025	Grant recipients notified
January - June 2026	School projects are implemented
June 13, 2026	Deadline for participating schools to submit their grant experience survey & story

Use of funds

YES, the grant funds can be used for:

Capacity building

- ✓ Partnerships: bringing community partners together to support program planning, implementation and/or delivery
- ✓ Honouraria: nominal, one-time recognition for community partners who provide support in carrying out project activities
- ✓ Food: Up to 20% of the grants valued between \$1,000-\$3,000 can be used toward the purchase of local food, with a goal of building relationships with local farmers and/or other local food providers.
- ✓ Educational supplies and field trip costs

Equipment & space modifications

- ✓ Kitchen equipment to support student meal service. This may include appliances, pots and pans, reusable dishes, utensils, equipment for preserving foods, etc.
- ✓ Equipment and material costs for growing, foraging or harvesting food.
- ✓ Minor costs for food service space modifications.

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NO, the grant funds *cannot* be used for:

- Food costs to supply a school meal service for grants valued at <\$1,000.
- School staff salaries or other paid positions or contracts to coordinate and administer the proposed activities.

Additional considerations for applications

- **School leadership** (Principal, Vice-Principal) **must be in support** of the proposed activities and grant application.
- Any food served as part of the grant activities should be **as healthy, culturally appropriate, locally and sustainably sourced as possible**.
- The proposed activities should **reflect and celebrate the diversity** of the student population.
- Activities delivered as part of the grant should be **open and accessible, without stigma**, to all students who wish to participate, regardless of means.
- Reporting requirements for grant recipients will include completion of a grant experience survey and the submission of a short story and supporting image(s) (or video) that demonstrate the grant impact.

How will applications be selected?

- Applications will be screened for eligibility based on the following criteria:
 - ✓ **The applicant meets the eligibility criteria**
 - ✓ **The requested funds fall within the range provided (\$500-\$3,000)**
 - ✓ **The application form has been completed in full**, and submitted online by October 20, 2025 (11:59 pm PST)
 - ✓ **The proposed activities reflect the local context:** Farm to school is an [approach](#) that looks different in every community. Applicants should consider and speak to the unique geographic, social and cultural contexts of their school community and how these will be honoured, respected and reflected in their proposed activities.
 - ✓ **The proposed activities fit into at least 1 of the 3 pillars of the farm to school approach:**
 - Healthy local food in schools
 - Hands-on learning
 - School and community connectedness
 - ✓ **It is clear how the proposed activities will have an impact on the school community and contribute to positive change in the school food environment.**

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- Eligible applications will be pooled according to 6 geographic regions:
 - British Columbia
 - Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)
 - Territories (Yukon, Nunavut, Northwest Territories)
 - Ontario
 - Quebec
 - Atlantic provinces
- Grants will be selected from the eligible pool of applicants and equally distributed across the 6 regions.
- A review committee will validate the selected applications to confirm eligibility according to the criteria outlined above.

How to Apply

1. Review the Grant Guidelines (this document).
2. Complete and submit the [online application form](#).

Note: You can save and resume your submission over time if desired. When you click the "Save" button you'll be emailed a link that you can use to resume your application.

Get Inspired!

Looking for ideas on how the grants can be implemented in your school community?

- Browse through our grantee school stories [here](#)
- Check out our farm to school [Resource Centre](#)!

Questions?

Have questions about the application process? Contact us at grants@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca.

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