



## **Request for Applications: Farm to School Mini-Grants for Native American Schools**

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), a project of the Tides Center, is pleased to announce a new mini-grant project: Seed Change in Native Communities with Farm to School.

Native peoples of North America have been celebrating our connection to land, food, and community for generations. Farm to school is a new term for an ancient concept: that we learn about people, place, and tradition, and care for our physical and spiritual health, through food.

Working with Native partners, the National Farm to School Network is exploring the unique opportunities for and challenges of expanding and sustaining farm to school in Native communities across the country. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following:

- Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test;
- Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition; and
- School gardens: Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening.

### **CORE ELEMENTS OF FARM to SCHOOL**



From developing school menus that include traditional foods like blue corn and bison to working with Native producers, planting heritage orchards, and connecting classroom education with tribal seed banks, together we are breaking down barriers and reinvigorating traditional food ways.

#### Purpose Statement:

The Seed Change in Native Communities with Farm to School project aims to expand farm to school activities (procurement of local and traditional foods, school gardens, and food and agriculture education) in Native communities as a strategy to leverage community-wide initiatives towards building food security and food sovereignty and towards revitalizing use of traditional foods. The project will provide five Native schools a mini-grant in the amount of \$5,900 to expand and promote farm to school.

#### Eligible Entities to Apply:

Native schools/early care and education sites will be selected through an open application process to partner on this project.



- Eligible schools will include those operated by the Bureau of Indian Education (on- and off-reservation schools) as well as public, tribal, and charter schools serving a majority (50% or more) children of Native origin.
- Early care and education (ECE) sites such as preschools, child care centers, Head Start/Early Head Start, and programs in K-12 school districts are eligible to apply. Family child care homes are not eligible to apply.
- Schools/ECE sites must be organized and operated as an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit or organized for charitable purposes in the U.S. or abroad. This includes 501(c)(3) public charities and private foundations, government entities, fiscally sponsored organizations, 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations, incorporated organizations with exemption pending, and other organizations with a qualifying tax status. Schools must not be prohibited from receiving funds from the U.S.
- One representative from the applicant school/ECE site must be available to attend NFSN's Annual Meeting May 2-3, 2017 in Denver, Colorado (expenses are covered through the \$5,900 mini-grant).
- Applicants must document the need for financial support in order to undertake the proposed farm to school activities.
- Applicants must document need for technical support to undertake the proposed farm to school activities.
- Applicants must have some level of previous experience in farm to school (experience with school gardens, food and agriculture education, and/or local, traditional food procurement).
- Applicants must be ready and committed to scaling up and institutionalizing previous farm to school efforts.

#### Project Outcomes:

The Seed Change mini-grant project seeks proposals from Native schools/ECE sites that address the following measurable outcomes (which will be tracked at the beginning, throughout, and end of the project):

- Dollar amount in local and/or traditional food purchased
- Number of gardens created/expanded
- Number of food/agriculture-based educational activities provided
- Engagement in project networking opportunities (participation in monthly mini-grantee "cohort" calls and attendance at the NFSN Annual Meeting)
- Number and frequency of content channels used (e.g., print media, radio, newsletters, social media) to promote the project and to build community awareness about farm to school
- Identification of policy opportunities and barriers to advance farm to school in Native communities

#### Application and Mini-Grant Project Timeline:

- Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 6pm ET
- Award Notifications: By Monday, April 3, 2017
- Project Begins for Selected Projects: Early April 2017
- April 2017: Complete baseline survey
- Annual Meeting Registration Deadline for Selected Projects: April 3, 2017
- April-September 2017 (ongoing): Selected schools/ECE sites will receive technical assistance and capacity building for implementation of projects including:



- Procurement, school gardens, and food/agriculture education
- Use of the [Evaluation for Transformation: A Cross-Sectoral Evaluation Framework for Farm to School](#) resource
- Support for data collection at the outset and conclusion of the project, including use of the [USDA Farm to School Census](#)
- April-September 2017 (ongoing): Selected schools/ECE sites will participate in peer learning and leadership development opportunities including:
  - Monthly “cohort” calls for mini-grantees and other Native leaders and partners
  - Invitations to NFSN’s monthly and quarterly topical calls including policy and farm to early care and education
  - Connections with USDA’s Office of Community Food Systems, other federal agencies, and other farm to school partners
- April-September 2017: Leverage media and marketing to promote the projects:
  - Collect and share project stories
  - Utilize Native community and local media outlets and NFSN content channels (e.g., blog, social media, newsletter) to share project stories
- May 2-3, 2017: One representative per selected school/ECE site attends the 2017 NFSN Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado
- May-June 2017: Participate in a series of policy listening sessions with the NFSN Policy Team to identify policy opportunities and barriers to implementing farm to school in Native communities
- September 2017: Complete final survey
- September 30, 2017: Projects completed

*Farm to School Mini-Grants for Native American Schools are supported by the Aetna Foundation, a national foundation based in Hartford, Connecticut that supports projects to promote wellness, health, and access to high-quality health care for everyone. The views presented here are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Aetna Foundation, its directors, officers, or staff.*

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## Application

### Background Questions:

1. I have read the Request for Applications in its entirety: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
2. The school/ECE site for which I am applying meets all eligibility criteria outlined above: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Name of Applicant School/ECE site:
4. Legal IRS Name / Fiscal Sponsor (if different from above):
5. Tax Identification Number:



6. Tax status (select one):
  - 501(c)(3) Public Charity Government entity
  - 501(c)(3) Private Foundation
  - 501(c)(4) Social Welfare Organization
  - Incorporated, Exemption Pending; Attach a copy of your articles of incorporation or bylaws
  - Other (please specify):
7. Please upload a copy of your [W-9](#) here.
8. Primary Contact (recipient of grant and payment):
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Email:
  - Phone:
9. Principal / Site Leader (if different from primary contact):
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Email:
  - Phone:
10. Project Leader (if different from primary contact and principal/site leader):
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Email:
  - Phone:
11. Mailing Address:
  - Street:
  - City:
  - State:
  - Zip:
12. General School/Site Email:
13. Website and Social Media:
  - Website:
  - Facebook:
  - Twitter:
  - Instagram:



Other (please specify):

14. Staff Members at Applicant School/Site (full-time and part-time):

Number of Staff Members:

% Male:

% Female

% Hispanic or Latino:

% Not Hispanic or Latino:

% American Indian or Alaska Native:

% Asian:

% Black or African American:

% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:

% White:

% More than one race:

15. Percentage of school/site's students that are of Native origin (cannot be more than 100%, must be at least 50% to be eligible to apply):

16. Type of school involved with this project (select all that apply):

BIE school (on-reservation)

BIE school (off-reservation)

Public school

Tribal school

Charter school

Preschool

Childcare center

Head Start/Early Head Start

Early childhood program in K-12 district

17. How would you describe the area in which your school is located (check all that apply)?

Urban

Rural

Suburban

Tribal

18. What is the total enrollment of the applicant school?

19. Please list the approximate number of students that your proposed farm to school project will reach:



20. Which level of students will this project benefit? (select all that apply)

- Early childhood / preschool
- Elementary
- Middle
- High

21. Please list the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price meals at your school (cannot be more than 100%):

Application Questions:

*(limit 3,000 characters per question)*

1. What is your school/site's previous experience with farm to school? Please describe any activities including procurement of local and/or traditional foods, school gardens, and food/agriculture-based education.
2. Has the farm to school work described above been tracked/measured in some way in your community before? If so, please provide any findings/analysis.
3. What key barriers have you faced in implementing farm to school previously?
4. What key lessons have you learned in implementing farm to school previously?
5. Has the farm to school work described above been featured in news/media before? If so, please provide links to articles, videos, etc.
6. Has your school/site been involved in the National Farm to School Network before? If so, please describe this involvement.
  - a. If yes, was your school/community part of the 2014-2015 NFSN Native communities cohort?
  - b. If yes, was your school/community involved in a 2015 NFSN Innovation Fund project for farm to school in Native communities?
7. What is your vision for the future of farm to school in your school/site and community? Please include specific goals, objectives, and timelines to accomplish this vision.
8. If your school/site was awarded a Seed Change mini-grant of \$5,900, how would the funds be used to help achieve your vision?
9. What is your sustainability plan for the proposed project's farm to school efforts after the project ends September 30, 2017? How will you ensure the work continues and lasts?
10. How do school/site leaders and/or community leaders support farm to school?