



K-12 Grant & Funding Guide



Welcome to our comprehensive funding guide designed to assist schools in acquiring grants for the procurement of hydroponic container farms. This sample list encompasses a range of opportunities, including both annual grants and one-time allocations, tailored to support educational initiatives in sustainable agriculture.

While we strive to provide a diverse array of funding options, we strongly encourage schools to conduct their own research, particularly at the state and county level, to explore additional avenues that may align with their specific needs and goals. Dive into this guide to discover potential pathways towards integrating hydroponic container farms into your school's curriculum and campus environment.

Federal Funding

Please note that the deadlines for these grants are subject to change, and that those listed are for prior years. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on grant deadlines, we recommend visiting the grant website or contacting the grant's overseeing department.

- **Perkins Grants:**
 - Perkins grants provide financial assistance to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, facilitating the purchase of agricultural equipment necessary for hands-on learning experiences. These grants support CTE initiatives by funding the acquisition of essential machinery, enhancing students' practical skills and preparing them for careers in the agricultural industry.
- **Discretionary Perkins Grant:**
 - Innovation and Modernization Program
 - Application timeframe (2023): Notice 8/14/23, Deadline 10/23/23
 - The purpose of the Perkins Innovation and Modernization grant program is to identify, support, and rigorously evaluate evidence-based and innovative strategies and activities to improve and modernize career and technical education (CTE) and ensure workforce skills taught in CTE programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins V), align with labor market needs.
- **Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants:**
 - Application timeframe in 2023: Deadline 4/9/23
 - The project aims to comprehensively assess local food system needs, research agricultural practices, and establish partnerships to enhance urban agriculture's potential to address diverse issues. Implementation activities involve increasing food production, supporting agricultural businesses, and providing mentoring and job training, alongside promoting food access, sustainability, and community education.
- **USDA Farm to School Grants:**
 - Application Timeframe (2023): Notice 10/11/23, Deadline 1/2/24
 - Grants are available for schools, institutions, nonprofits, and government agencies to support various agricultural activities, including training, menu development, supply chain establishment, and equipment purchase. This program awards grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm to school programs that connect students

to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals.

- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture:**

- Equipment Grant Program

- Application Timeframe (2024): Notice 1/11/24, Deadline 5/3/24
- The Equipment Grant Program aims to enhance research capabilities in food and agricultural sciences at higher education institutions, including State Cooperative Extension Systems, by providing access to specialized equipment. This program supports institutions in acquiring costly equipment essential for research, training, and extension efforts, supplementing other NIFA grant programs to broaden the scope and quality of their work.

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Sustainable Agriculture Systems

- Application Timeframe (2024): Notice 2/23/24, Deadline 6/6/24
- The Agricultural Systems Request for applications that emphasize innovative projects that employ a systems approach to bring about transformative changes in the U.S. food and agriculture system, aiming to enhance the availability, safety, affordability, and accessibility of agricultural products while fostering economic development and rural prosperity.

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Education and Workforce Development

- Application Timeframe (2024): Notice 4/15/24, Deadline 12/5/24
- Applicants must facilitate professional development for K-14 educators, offer non-formal agricultural education for youth, provide workforce training at community colleges, and support undergraduate student training in research and extension.

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Grants:**

- Application Timeframe (2023): Deadline 11/8/23
- The EPA is seeking grant applications to fund environmental education projects aimed at fostering awareness, stewardship, and responsible actions for environmental protection, with funding up to \$3.5 million annually since 1992, benefiting numerous recipients including local education agencies, state environmental agencies, and colleges/universities.

- **Partnerships for Local Agriculture and Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS):**

- Application Timeframe (2023): Deadline 1/22/23
- PLANTS is seeking proposals for projects led by groups of local partners with systemic and equity-driven approaches to transforming school food supply chains. Projects should seek to strengthen relationships among community-based food system stakeholders and

School Food Authorities (SFAs) as well as expand scratch cooking in schools in order to build more nourishing school meal programs.

State Level Funding

- **State Agriculture Department Funding:**
 - State agriculture departments may provide funding or resources to support agricultural education initiatives in K-12 schools, including grants or equipment donation programs.
- **Community Grants and Foundations:**
 - These grants and foundations can include local agricultural organizations, educational foundations, hospital community benefit grants, and corporate grants focused on community development, education, food insecurity, and social determinants of health.
- **Hospital Community Benefit Grants:**
 - Funding opportunities provided by hospitals as part of their community benefit initiatives to support projects and programs that address health-related needs and promote community wellness
 - Every three years hospitals conduct a community needs assessment which is available on the hospital's website; this outlines their priority initiatives, which often includes addressing food insecurity. Hospitals typically announce grant opportunities through their community benefit programs, often in collaboration with local public health departments, school districts, or community organizations
- **Workforce Education Grants (South Dakota):**
 - Provide school districts and private, nonprofit entities who provide specialized training in South Dakota the opportunity to make transformative change in career and technical education programs.
- **Fast forward Program Grant (Wisconsin):**
 - Reimbursement of costs for the acquisition of equipment that is used in advanced manufacturing fields in the workplace, together with any software necessary for the operation of that equipment, and any instructional material necessary to train pupils in the operation of that equipment.
- **Green Trades DC Grant (Washington DC):**
 - The purpose of this grant is to (1) increase technical skills, create training and professional development opportunities, and place District residents in clean energy and related jobs; and (2) increase the related local workforce. DOEE intends to fund one or more grantees.

- DOEE (Department of Energy and Environment) intends to fund a project that will benefit the environment, and, in particular, the environment of the District.
- **Career Preparation and Launch Grant Program (Washington):**
 - The Career Preparation and Launch Grants are for districts to purchase and install career and technical education equipment that expands career-connected learning and work-integrated learning opportunities.
- **County Grants:**
 - K-12 schools seeking funding can explore county grants through comprehensive research methods including consulting local government websites, contacting county grant offices directly, and networking with other educational institutions to identify and apply for available funding opportunities

School-level funding

- **Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Booster Clubs:**
 - These organizations organize events such as fundraisers, auctions, and donation drives to raise funds for special school projects
- **Crowdfunding and Online Fundraising Platforms:**
 - Schools can leverage crowdfunding platforms and online fundraising campaigns to ask for donations from a broader audience, including alumni, community members, and supporters from beyond the local area
- **Community Partnerships and Corporate Sponsorships:**
 - Schools can establish partnerships with local businesses, corporations, and community organizations that have an interest in supporting STEM education and local food production.
 - K-12 schools often create proposals outlining the benefits of the collaboration and how their donation will directly impact student learning and school improvement efforts