



in partnership with  SUSTAIN ONTARIO

nourish to flourish

Ontario School Grants 2024/25

Guidelines for Applicants

About the Guidelines

This document provides guidelines for those who are considering applying for a *nourish to flourish* School Grant for the 2024/2025 school year. These grants are provided thanks to a partnership between Sustain Ontario and Farm Boy Company Inc. with Farm to Cafeteria Canada as the administrative partner. Full grant details are available on the [Sustain Ontario website](#).

As a complement to the Guidelines, we will be hosting a webinar on the grant opportunity on **September 25** at 3:30 pm ET - [register here](#).

Questions can be sent to Carolyn Webb at cwebb@sustainontario.ca.

Funds available

The *nourish to flourish* School Grant program will award one-time grants of **between \$500 and \$3,000** to an estimated **30 schools** across Ontario, with the aim of awarding 10 grants of \$500, 5 grants of \$1000 and 15 grants of \$3000. Project activities must be implemented between January and June 2025.

** Farm to Cafeteria Canada, in partnership with the Schad Foundation, is also offering between 5-7 Dig in to Farm to School! [seed grants](#) for Ontario schools in the same grant range with the same guidelines. All schools who apply for the *nourish to flourish* grants will have the opportunity to be considered for one of the Dig In grants through the same application process. Schools are only eligible to receive one of the grants (not both).

Eligibility

Applications are open to **all schools (kindergarten to grade 12) across Ontario**. This includes schools in rural, remote and urban settings.

Schools in Indigenous communities/nations and schools that serve a high-proportion of low-income, racialized or other equity-deserving communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The selection process will consider schools across the province, but will look to select a greater proportion in urban regions as well as to schools that serve a high proportion of low-income, racialized or other equity-deserving communities.

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.*

Access more information about the grants on the Sustain Ontario website at:

sustainontario.com/nourish-to-flourish

Definitions

We refer to a number of terms throughout these guidelines including “healthy food” and “sustainably produced food”. To understand how we are defining these terms, please visit Farm to Cafeteria Canada’s [Glossary](#).

What are the *nourish to flourish* School Grants?

Farm Boy, Sustain Ontario and Farm to Cafeteria Canada have partnered to develop and deliver the ‘nourish to flourish’ grants to cultivate an ecosystem where children not only eat nourishing food but also develop a deep understanding and appreciation for food. Through support for in-school meal programs and food literacy initiatives, these grants seek to help students develop more knowledge and skills to support a lifetime of healthy eating. By offering funding for in-school meal programs, immersive trips to farms, school gardens, guest speakers and other food literacy initiatives, we aim to connect children with the origins of their food, fostering a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the earth.

When we nourish our children, we empower them to flourish and, in turn, enrich the world around them.

Learn more about Farm Boy’s vision and passion for this work [here](#).

Key dates

Sept 9, 2024	Grant application window OPENS
Oct 21, 2024	Grant application window CLOSES (11:59 pm EST)
Early January 2025	Grant recipients notified
Jan - June 2025	School projects are implemented
End of June 2025	Deadline for participating schools to submit their grant experience survey & story

Use of funds

The nourish to flourish School Grants are offered in three amounts:

- 10 grants of \$500 each
- 5 grants of \$1000 each
- 15 grants of \$3000 each

Schools are welcome to apply for one or all of these amounts.

For the \$500 grant: Funds can be allocated towards supporting an in-school meal program, such as purchasing equipment, or to educational programs and activities such as those listed below. Funds at this level **cannot** be used towards the purchase of food.

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For the \$1000 and \$3000 grants:

- A portion of allotted funds must be used to support in-school meal programs, including purchasing equipment and/or food.
 - Minimum of 50% of the grant must go to support in-school meal programs (including, but not limited to, food costs).
 - No more than \$500 of allotted funds can be used to purchase food.
 - Food purchased with funds should be as fresh, healthy, culturally appropriate and as locally and sustainably sourced as possible.
- The remaining funds can support educational programs, equipment and activities such as those below.

Funds can support food literacy initiatives and equipment such as:

- Field trips to a farm with a follow-up in-school activity, such as using fresh produce from the farm for cooking or canning demonstrations in school.
- Setting up a school garden through purchasing supplies (lumber, soil, seeds, materials, etc.) and holding food literacy activities throughout the year.
- Hosting in-school guest speakers and workshops on gardening, harvesting, cooking or other food literacy topics.
- Having a permaculture designer or Knowledge Keeper help create a plan for a food forest; purchasing fruit trees or perennial food-bearing plants.

The grant funds can be used for:

- ✓ Partnerships: bringing community partners together to support program planning, implementation and/or delivery
- ✓ Honoraria for food literacy activities: nominal, one-time recognition for community partners who provide support in carrying out food literacy work
- ✓ Educational supplies and field trip costs
- ✓ 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.

NO, the grant funds cannot be used for:

- School staff salaries or other paid positions or contracts to coordinate and administer the food service

Additional considerations for applications

- **School leadership** (Principal, Vice-Principal) **must be in support** of the proposed activities and grant application.
- 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.

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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 are in the amount of \$500, \$1000 or \$3000** (note that applicants can apply for any of these amounts. If you are offered a smaller grant than you requested we will ask you to modify and resubmit your budget before receiving the funding)
 - ✓ **The application form has been completed in full**, and submitted online by October 21, 2024 (11:59 pm EST)
 - ✓ **The proposed activities support the vision of seeing more fresh, healthy and culturally appropriate food in schools as well as students more involved in hands-on food literacy education, and the activities reflect the local context, vision and needs:** 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.
 - ✓ **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.**
- Grants will be selected by a selection committee, with a greater proportion of grants given to schools in urban regions and to schools that serve a high proportion of low-income, racialized or other equity-deserving communities.
- A review committee will validate the selected applications to confirm eligibility according to the criteria outlined above.

Get Inspired!

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

Check out Sustain Ontario's [Local Food Literacy in Schools FAQ Tipsheet](#) and Farm to Cafeteria Canada's farm to school [Resource Centre](#)

Questions?

Have questions about the application process? Contact us at cwebb@sustainontario.ca.

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