

FY22 and FY23 Farm to School and Early Childhood (FTSEC) Grant Programs Demand vs Supply

FY	FO	Applications Received	Total \$ Requested	Funds Available
22	Capacity Building	25	\$273,500	\$75,000
23	Capacity Building	24	\$333,000	\$142,000
24	Capacity Building	17	\$176,900	\$132,900
22	CSA	38	\$31,239	\$22,947
23	CSA	45	\$34,269	\$32,609
24	CSA	TBD*	TBD*	\$65,000
22	Vision	7	\$91,000	\$16,000
23	Vision	13	\$577,068	\$166,898
24	Vision	TBD*	TBD*	\$154,898

*VAAFMM will begin accepting FY24 CSA Grant applications on 2/8 and Vision Grant will begin accepting FY24 Vision Grant applications on 2/29. No FY24 applicant data is available yet for these two programs.

Farm to Institution Market Development Grant

The Farm to Institution Market Development Grant (formerly Local Food Market Development Grant) is an annual appropriation to VAAFMM intended to support market development opportunities for local food producers and processors, with a focus on Vermont institutional markets. Funding is provided to help improve local producer access to, and engagement with, schools, hospitals, colleges, correctional facilities, and other local institutions.

In 2011 the Vermont Legislature first provided funding to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) for the creation of the Vermont Local Food Market Development Grant Program as part of investments in local food procurement investments.

Each year subsequently, the Vermont State Legislature has annually appropriated funds to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to support market opportunities with an institutional or other wholesale focus in Vermont. FY25 appropriation in Governor's recommend budget is \$30K. Starting in FY 2023, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets focused the grant priorities towards institutional market development, due to overlap with existing VAAFMM grant programs supporting wholesale market development.

3 grants have been awarded since the prioritization of institutional markets in FY23, totaling \$75,000:

1. FY23: Center for an Agricultural Economy - Connecting Vermont Farms with Regional Institutions - \$27,500
2. FY23: Equinox Food Brokers - Institutional Market Expansion and Development - \$17,500
3. FY24: Farm to Institution New England - Vermont Farm to Prison Partnership - \$30,000

Workforce Development Initiatives

- VDPCC Workforce Development: VAAFM has awarded grants to UVM Extension 4-H in 2023 and 2024 to support high school dairy industry education and workforce development, funded by the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council.
 - 2023 - \$24,000 to develop and launch a 4-H Dairy Industry Career Tour, send a Vermont delegation to the National 4-H Dairy Conference, and develop an independent study program for students to learn about dairy business.
 - 2024 - \$15,000 to send a 4-H Delegation to 2024 National 4-H Dairy Conference and continue either the 4-H Dairy Industry Careers Tour or the independent dairy study program, whichever is deemed more impactful.
- FTSEC Vision Grant
 - In FY23, one of the five FTSEC Vision Grants was \$27,714 awarded to the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition for launching a new agriculture and workforce development program, the Lake Champlain Sustainable Agriculture Education Program. The program has created high school internships, mentoring, on-farm activities, and in-school training and workshops in partnership with five diversified farms, Middlebury College, the Hannaford Career Center, and high schools in Addison and Rutland counties.