School Food Infrastructure Fund Offering
About the Grants

Farm to Cafeteria Canada (F2CC) has been selected as one of ten organizations by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to distribute $1.1M of the School Food Infrastructure Fund (SFIF) to eligible community organizations across Canada (see the AAFC news release here).

Grant Goals and Anticipated Outcomes

The goals of these grants are to:

- Support the purchase and installation of infrastructure and equipment that increases the capacity of community organizations to produce, process, store, and distribute food for school food programs.
- Strengthen wider community and local food systems.
- Help ensure that children have the nutritious and culturally relevant meals they need to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

F2CC is inviting grant applications that have a specific focus on:
- Increasing organizations' capacity to serve more **local and seasonal food in schools**, and
- Demonstrating a clear commitment to supporting **Indigenous and Black food sovereignty.**

These grants are seeking to achieve the following outcomes:

- Organizations have increased capacity to deliver school food programs, which are defined as initiatives that provide meals and/or snacks at school.
- Food environments are improved within schools.
- Strengthened community food security.

Timeline for grant use

June 2025-March 2026.

Definitions

We refer to a number of terms throughout this document. To understand how we are defining these terms, please visit our **Glossary of Terms.**

To learn more

- Read these guidelines to understand what makes for a strong application.
- Join our webinar on **April 9 at 1pm ET** to learn more about the funding opportunity and ask any questions. Register here.
- Show up on Wednesday April 2nd, 16th, 23rd, or 30th from noon-1pm ET during our "Open House" hours to ask questions. Register here.
- Reach out if you have any questions: grants@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca (please specify SFIF in the subject line)

Additional details:

Funds Available

Farm to Cafeteria Canada (F2CC) has $1.1M of School Food Infrastructure Funding (SFIF) to distribute to eligible community organizations across Canada. Applicants can submit grant requests in any amount. However, the amount requested should be proportionate to the proposed activities and costs.

We will prioritize applications that demonstrate a significant impact for the amount requested, high potential to advance the grant outcomes, and organizational capacity to administer the grant.

While we do not require quotes as part of the application we strongly encourage you to get estimates of infrastructure or equipment costs as well as eligible installation costs as a part of your budget planning. Any quotes obtained should be retained for auditing purposes.

Organizational Eligibility

Eligible recipients must be community-based organizations that are:

a) Working with / to support school food programs (i.e. programs that provide food to students in the school setting), AND
b) Incorporated not-for-profit organizations or charities.

The following entities are not considered to be eligible recipients.

- Municipal or school bodies, including local governments, health authorities, school boards or schools;
- Governmental and quasi-governmental organizations including band councils;
- Academic and educational institutions; and
- For-profit entities.

F2CC will prioritize funding requests from organizations who are **serving schools attended by children and youth from lower-income families as well as visible minority and Indigenous communities.**

Please reach out if you have any questions about your organization's eligibility.

Eligible Costs

*** All the infrastructure/equipment must have a useful life for at least 2 years after the project completion date (i.e. at least March 31, 2028)

This list is not exhaustive. It is meant to provide guidance on the costs for ultimate recipients that are considered eligible and ineligible under the program.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs and Limitations
Food Production: ● Gardens ● Food forests ● Garden boxes/beds/tools ● Greenhouses or domes ● Vertical and/or hydroponic gardens ● Seeds, soil, compost	**Food Production:** ● Aquaponics and Aquaculture Equipment ● Livestock ● Safety equipment ● Storage shed ● Water hook-up (from the city/municipal water source)
Transformation, processing, preparation of food: ● Essential cooking equipment, such as combination (combi) ovens, steamers, large and small kitchen appliances ● Food preparation equipment, such as large capacity food processors, prep tables, mixers, slicers ● Washing equipment, such as a commercial dishwasher, or equipment necessary to maintain hygiene standards with respect to food preparation ● Receiving bay, loading dock ● Kitchen tools (e.g. knives, cutting boards) and cookware	**Transformation, processing, preparation of food:** ● Food (perishable and non-perishable) ● Specialty coffee equipment ● Donut makers ● Deep fryers ● Hand sinks ● Cleaning supplies (e.g. mops, brooms, cloths) ● Consumable supplies (such as dish soap, hair nets, jars, lids, vacuum seal bags, takeaway containers, personal protective equipment)
Refrigeration and storage of food: ● Industrial refrigerators, freezers, walk-in cooler/freezer ● Blast-chill or cook-chill equipment ● Root cellar ● Refrigerated or insulated shipping containers ● Packaging equipment, such as vacuum sealers ● Food storage racks ● Shelving for food storage areas ● Bulk storage containers for food/bins	**Refrigeration and storage of food:** ● Any equipment pertaining to the storage of non-food items
Transportation and distribution of food: ● Vehicles including cargo van, refrigerated vehicle (eligible vehicles can be electric and	**Transportation and distribution of food:** ● Food trucks ● Passenger vehicles (for example, pick-up

can include related infrastructure) specifically to support school food programming involving multiple schools (e.g., including distribution to schools) ● Trailers, refrigerated or non-refrigerated	trucks/minivans) ● Lease of vehicles ● Transportation expenses (gas, maintenance)
Other costs: ● Contracted installation (only eligible for SFIF-funded equipment) ● Freight and duty charges ● One-time initial training for operation of a specialized piece of equipment funded under the project ● Shipping ● Site preparation, including removal and disposal of an old piece of equipment ● Minor renovations, including updating electrical wiring, plumbing or ventilation, specifically in order to install commercial grade equipment and meet safety standards; equipment must also be funded under the project. ● Minor renovations to a kitchen/food preparation area to facilitate the installation of equipment that is funded under the project. ● Other materials and supplies related to the installation of funded equipment.	**Other costs:** ● Administrative costs ● Computer and software equipment ● Costs associated with ongoing operations (for example, labour, staff, rent, insurance, utilities) ● Costs related to marketing activities or business promotion ● Furniture ● Generators ● Salaries, honorariums, consultant fees, gift cards ● HVAC systems ● Lease of equipment ● Major renovations to substantially adapt or refurbish an existing space ● Major construction, including additions or new buildings ● Purchase or lease of land or buildings ● Signage ● Training/technical assistance (e.g., to develop skills and expertise in nutrition, meal planning or food preparation) ● **Any refundable taxes (federal / provincial)***** ● Warranty fees (for extended warranty, vehicles)

*** Please note that **refundable taxes (federal and provincial) are not an eligible expense under this Fund**. Grant recipients will be responsible to determine if/how much non-refundable tax they are eligible to claim in their application. Recipients will be responsible for paying the upfront costs for any refundable tax amounts for which they're eligible to receive a [rebate](#).

Application Process and Timeline

Mon March 24, 2025	Grant process and application template available on our website.
Tue April 1, 2025	Online application opens.
Wed April 9, 1 pm ET (Bilingual) - register here	Join a virtual conversation to connect with us, learn more about the grants, and ask all your questions!
May 2, 2025	**Last day to apply!** Let us know about your interest in a grant.
End of June, 2025	Applicants contacted; Funds issued.
End of March 2026	Program deliverables and reporting complete.

Additional Considerations and Reporting

- Applicants will benefit from showing that they have experience with school food programs, including established relationships with schools as well as additional community supporters including Elders, Knowledge Keepers, experienced local food providers, chefs, public health dietitians or nurses, independent consultants and other relevant non-profit organizations.

- Financial reporting requirements will include an itemized summary of expenditures and copies of associated receipts. All funds must be fully spent by March 31, 2026.

- We will ask all grant recipients to complete a baseline report and a final progress report, reporting on the following indicators and outcomes. We will also ask you to share with us a short story along with photos or videos that show the impacts of your initiative on the school communities you serve.

Performance Indicators	**Expected Outcomes**
Degree to which funded organizations' capacity to deliver school food programs has been increased.	Organizations have increased capacity to deliver school food programs.
Percentage change in the quantity and value of foods produced, processed, distributed and/or donated through funded projects. Degree to which grant recipients report improved availability and access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.	Food environments are improved within schools.
Relative change in the degree to which recipients perceive access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.	Strengthened community food security.
Will we ask you to report on measures such as increases in the number of meals served, schools served, students served; and quantity and dollar value of foods produced, processed, stored and/or distributed/donated.	

How We Work and Our Data Protocols

Our data protocols for our work are rooted in the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty. This means that communities have control over the collection, ownership, and application of data that concerns them. We know

that data is often governed by specific protocols that reflect the values, traditions, and priorities of each community. We will strive to make sure that all data collection is done in a way that respects cultural practices, with clear consent from individuals and communities involved.

Appropriate protocols are essential for maintaining trust and ensuring that data is used in a way that benefits the community that owns it. Data sovereignty allows communities to protect sensitive cultural information, maintain control over how their data is interpreted, and ensure that it is used for their benefit, not for exploitation or harm.

If you receive a grant, we will gratefully ask you to report on the impacts that the grant has had on the school community or communities your organization serves. This will help us all understand the effects of our work together, improve our programs, and share stories of impact. The reporting process will include filling out a baseline survey and report at the end of the grant term to help us understand the impacts of these grants and how your funds have been used. These reports will be used to understand the impacts of the program and we will communicate the summary reports with the funder, AAFC. You will not be judged or impacted by the information that you share. We may also use the aggregated data in peer reviewed research and other communications or fundraising work.

Also, we know that people are inspired by stories. We want to be able to share your amazing work, celebrate your efforts and how they have impacted your community, and inspire and encourage others in their own journeys. At the end of your grant term we will ask you to share a story, that may include pictures or videos, about the impacts of the grant on your school community that we would like to post on our website and through social media. You will also be able to share your story out widely within and beyond your community. You will still own the story that you share and can ask us to edit or remove it from our website at any time. Please feel free to reach out at any time if you would like to have a discussion about the use of your data and story.

Our work and how we engage with Indigenous communities is informed by a Circle of Indigenous Advisors (see their bios here). These Advisors represent a plurality of Indigenous Nations across Canada, and they are regularly consulted to help us engage respectfully with Indigenous partners and communities.

Our commitment to engaging Black community organizations across Canada is integral to creating an inclusive and equitable school food system. Through the Black School Food Working Group, we aim to amplify the voices and experiences of the Black Food Sovereignty movement. We are dedicated to collaborating with Black community leaders to guide our work and ensure it is responsive to their needs.

How will applications be selected?
- We will pre-screen the applications to make sure that they are complete.

- Grants will be selected from the eligible pool of applicants and equitably distributed across the country to make sure that the schools funded reflect a diversity of location and activities planned. We will prioritize applications that meet the grant stream's goals and objectives and demonstrate the relationships, experience, and organizational capacity to administer the grant. F2CC will give priority to organizations that are serving schools attended by children and youth from lower-income families as well as visible minority and Indigenous communities.

- A final list of grantees will be reviewed and approved by our grant oversight committee.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about our grant selection process.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted online from April 1st to May 2nd, 2025.

- Access our [How to Apply document](#).

Get Inspired!

Are you looking for ideas on how the grants can be implemented in your school community? Check out our farm to school [Resource Centre](#)!

Questions?

Need help with your grant application or have questions about the application process?
Reach out to us at grants@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca.

Please indicate SFIF in the subject line of the email.

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Agri-Food Canada

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