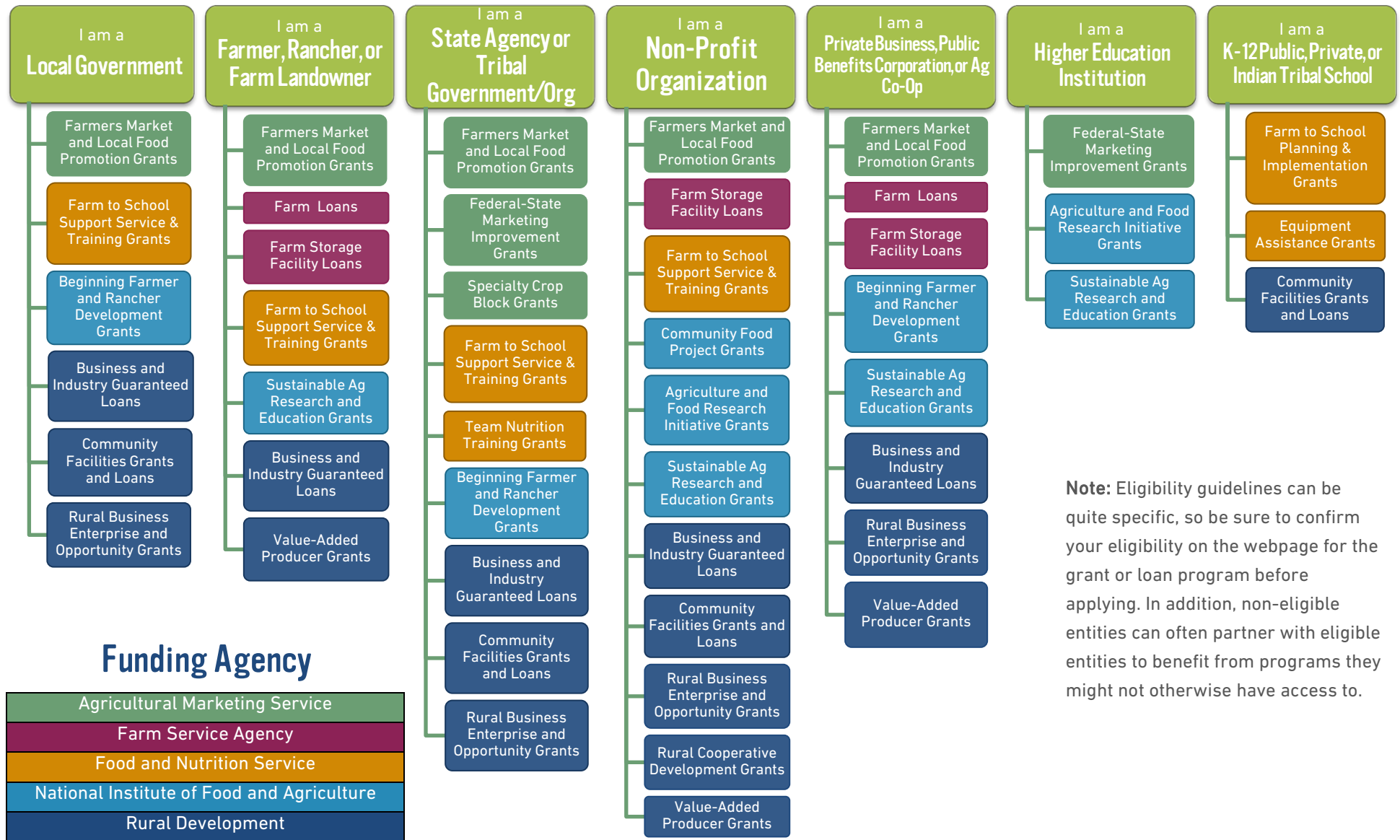


USDA Grants and Loans that Support Farm to School Activities

Funding from the US Department of Agriculture is available to assist farms, schools, and every link in between in feeding kids healthy local meals; teaching them about food, farming and nutrition; and supporting local agricultural economies. While the programs listed below provide a good starting point for those looking to bolster farm to school efforts, other USDA grant and loan programs support local food systems work as well. Visit www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer and www.usda.gov/farmtoschool for more information.



Note: Eligibility guidelines can be quite specific, so be sure to confirm your eligibility on the webpage for the grant or loan program before applying. In addition, non-eligible entities can often partner with eligible entities to benefit from programs they might not otherwise have access to.

Learn More...

Funding from the Food and Nutrition Service

Farm to School Grants - www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/grants

Team Nutrition Training Grants - www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition-training-grants

Equipment Assistance Grants - <http://www.fns.usda.gov/2016-nslp-equipment-assistance-grants>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) - The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate. SNAP-Ed funds support direct education, social marketing and public health based approaches to nutrition and obesity prevention. Reach out to your SNAP-Ed lead agency to learn about existing community food systems work. www.fns.usda.gov/snap/nutrition-education

Funding from the Agricultural Marketing Service

Farmers Market and Local Foods Promotion Grants - www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp and www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program - www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgbp>

Funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Community Food Project Grants - nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grants - www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants - www.sare.org/Grants

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Grants - www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html

Funding from Rural Development

Community Facilities Grants and Loans - www.rurdev.usda.gov/had-cf_grants.html

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans - www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees

Rural Business Enterprise and Opportunity Grants - www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rbeg.html and www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rbog.html

Value Added Producer Grants - www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html

Rural Cooperative Development Grants - www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rcdg.html

Funding from the Farm Service Agency

Farm Loans - www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index

Farm Storage Facility Loans - www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/frm_storage_facility_lns.pdf (PDF)

For more information, and to sign up for the bi-weekly e-letter from the Food and Nutrition Service's Office of Community Food Systems, please visit www.usda.gov/farmtoschool. Questions? Email us at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov.
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