

Missouri Farm to Preschool Project
2017 Request for Applications

Funding is available for child care providers to conduct farm to preschool activities. The project, *Growing with MO-Harvest of the Season* is offered by the Team Nutrition Program of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The project goal is to connect young children with where their food comes from through increased exposure to local fruits and vegetables, gardening opportunities and food based activities.

Eligibility

The opportunity is open to Missouri child care centers, Head Start sites and family child care homes currently participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). A separate application must be completed for each interested child care site. A sponsoring organization may not submit a blanket application for multiple sites.

Applicants must name the child care director, a project leader and a project assistant. The director may serve as project leader or assistant. All individuals must be committed to implementing farm to preschool activities and meeting the requirements of this grant.

Approved Applicants (Grantees) Will Receive:

- From \$300 to \$900 reimbursement for eligible farm to preschool activities. Grant amount is based on the number of preschool age classrooms in your facility.
 - 1 classroom or family home - \$300
 - 2 classrooms - \$500
 - 3 classrooms - \$700
 - 4 or more classrooms - \$900
- Project materials, including *Growing with MO Toolkit*, laminated mini-posters featuring 14 Missouri grown fruits and vegetables and the USDA preschool curriculum, *Grow It, Try It, Like It*.
- Free clock hour training opportunities for staff.
- Free technical assistance to help with implementation and reporting of activities.
- Upon completion of the project grantees will receive food and garden themed children's books valued at \$150.

Grantee Requirements

1. Grantees must submit two progress reports to document completion of activities.
2. Grantees must have the ability to purchase grant approved items, then submit invoices for reimbursement. **No money is distributed until invoices are received by DHSS.**
3. Grantees must notify the DHSS if they will not be able to complete planned activities and spend all the grant funds.
4. Grantees must complete pre and post surveys as part of the project evaluation.

Farm to Preschool Activities Eligible for Funding:

Five strategies are approved for funding. Grantees may spend all their funds in one strategy or choose activities from several strategies.

1. **Classroom Learning Experiences** - Approved expenditures include:
 - a. Copying/printing of online farm to preschool curriculum materials.
 - b. Purchase of curriculum materials and supplies.
 - c. Science discovery tools such as magnifying glasses, tweezers and scale/balance.
 - d. Children's books about fruits, vegetables and gardening.
 - e. Fruits and vegetables for taste-testing or classroom food preparation activities.
 - Note-Funds may not be used to purchase food for a reimbursable meal.**
 - f. Small plates, bowls and tasting cups for classroom food experiences.

- g. Small mobile kitchen equipment to be used for classroom food preparation experiences. Examples include plastic knives, child-friendly utensils, cutting boards, peelers and food processor.
Note-Amount spent on this equipment can be no more than 10% of the total budget.
 - h. Child aprons or smocks.
 - i. Salary for classroom staff to attend two hours of farm to preschool curriculum training.
2. **Field Trips to Farms, Orchards, Farmers Markets or Community Gardens** – Approved expenditures include:
- a. Transportation costs
 - b. Admittance fees
 - c. Honorarium for guest speaker
3. **Purchase and Use of Local Fruits and Vegetables**
- a. Salary for staff time to research and make connections with sources for local food.
 - b. Salary for kitchen staff to attend six hours of Culinary Skills Institute training.
4. **Garden Activities** – Approved expenditures include:
- a. Garden structures such as raised beds, fences, stakes, growing trellises and hoop houses.
 - b. Indoor growing structures and grow lights.
 - c. Garden soil, compost and fertilizer for in ground or raised bed garden.
 - d. Potting soil for container gardens.
 - e. Seeds and transplants.
 - f. Fruit trees (no more than 2 trees)
 - g. Child size garden tools such as shovels, hoes, rakes and buckets.
 - h. Watering equipment such as hose & sprayer, sprinkler, watering cans.
 - i. Food safe harvesting containers.
 - j. Wheelbarrow or wagon.
 - k. Child size garden gloves.
 - l. Gardening resource books
 - m. Pay for gardening consultant if necessary
5. **Family Engagement Activities** - Approved expenditures include:
- a. Copying/printing of parent newsletters or handouts.
 - b. Fruits and vegetables for taste testing or cooking demonstrations.
 - c. Healthy food for open house or harvest party.
 - d. Materials for a bulletin board.

Project Timeline

Jan. 10, 2017	Webinar to review application process
Jan. 31, 2017	Application due to DHSS
Feb. 15, 2017	Applicants selected
Mar.-Sep. 2017	Project activities implemented
Jun. 15, 2017	Interim progress report and invoice due to DHSS
Oct. 15, 2017	Final progress report and invoice due to DHSS

How to Submit Application

Application must be submitted online through Survey Monkey. Click this link for the application.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F2PFA>

The application questions are listed here to help you plan your online application. **Please do not submit this form.**

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Contact information

1- 5	Name & address of Child Care
6	Name of child care director
7	Director's email address
8	Federal tax ID # - must be 9 to 11 digits
9	Name of farm to preschool project lead – can be same as director, but could be someone else
10	Name of farm to preschool project assistant – could be a teacher, cook, etc. but does not have to be an employee; could be a parent, or other community member
11	Title of project lead
12	Individuals are committed to implementing farm to preschool activities and meeting requirements of this grant Y/N

General information about your child care facility

13	Total number of children enrolled
14	Number of classrooms to participate in farm to preschool activities (Classrooms with children ages 2 through 5 are eligible)
15	Is the facility open through the summer?
16	Does the child care facility participate in CACFP?
17	What is your CACFP Sponsor Number? - up to 4 digits
18	Are you able to pay up front for grant approved items and wait approximately a month for reimbursement?
19	Why do you want to participate in this project?
20	Please describe any nutrition or wellness initiatives or activities your child care facility has already participated in.

21 Please check all farm to preschool strategies you plan to implement, even if you are not requesting funds for each strategy.

<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Classroom learning experiences. This includes use of curriculum resources, children's books, taste testing, classroom food preparation
<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Field trips to farms, orchards, farmers markets or community gardens
<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Garden activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Family engagement activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Serve more fresh and local fruits and vegetables in child care meals

Classroom Learning Experiences (complete if you check 21.a.)

22 Who is the person responsible for choosing or developing curriculum for your child care?

23 Have you used any specific curriculum to teach nutrition to preschoolers?

24 If yes, what is the curriculum name?

25 What farm to preschool learning experiences do you plan to implement through this project?

- Grow It, Try It, Like It curriculum
- Create your own farm to preschool lessons
- Taste testing activities
- Classroom food preparation activities
- Other (explain)

Field Trips (complete if you check 21.b.)

- 26 How many field trips do you expect to take? Response must be a number
- 27 How many children are expected to go on each trip? Response must be a number
- 28 Do you already know the names of the farms, markets or gardens you want to visit?
- 29 If yes, list them

Garden Activities (complete if you check 21.c.)

- 30 Do you already have a garden at your child care facility?
- 31 Do you have staff with any gardening experience?
- 32 What type of garden do you plan to grow? Keep in mind that growing vegetables need a location with at least 6 hours of daily sunlight and a convenient source of water.
 - a. In ground
 - b. raised bed
 - c. container garden
 - d. indoor with grow lights
- 33 Will your child care facility be able to continue the garden after the grant period ends?
- 34 If yes, list two steps you will take to continue the garden

Family Engagement Activities (complete if you check 21.d.)

- 35 How do you currently communicate with families?
 - a. paper newsletters or handouts
 - b. social media
 - c. website
 - d. family meetings
 - e. other – list
- 36 Please describe your plan for getting families involved in farm to preschool activities.

Serve More Fresh and Local Fruits and Vegetables (complete if you check 21.e.)

- 37 Where have you purchased fruits and vegetables for child care meals in the past year? (check all that apply)
 - a. grocery store
 - b. wholesale food distributor
 - c. direct from a farmer
 - d. farmers market
 - e. grown in your garden
 - f. other

After these questions, you will be directed to a separate budget form to complete.

Application assistance

Webinar from Jan. 10, 2017 and sample budgets available to view at www.health.mo.gov/growingwithmo
Click on Training button

You may also contact:

Barbara Keen, Project Coordinator
573-522-2884

Barbara.keen@health.mo.gov