

Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner



Christine Brennan  
Deputy Commissioner

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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February 27, 2023

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

### REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Education to accept and expend United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program funds in the amount of \$114,054.00 from the United States Department of Agriculture, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted as follows:

CN Farm to School ARPA Grant  
Account: 06-56-56-562010-26XXXXXX

Class	Class Description	FY23
<u>Income</u>		
000-400374	Federal Funds	(\$114,054.00)
<u>Expenditures</u>		
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$2,421.00
029-500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	\$10.00
030-500311	Equipment New Replacement	\$5,469.00
038-500177	Technology-Software	\$504.00
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,635.00
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$115.00
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$942.00
050-500109	Personal Service Temp	\$12,620.00

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060-500601	Benefits		\$7,192.00
070-500704	In State Travel Reimb		\$11,325.00
072-500577	Grants Federal		\$56,997.00
080-500710	Out of State Travel Reimb		\$4,824.00
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services		\$9,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,054.00</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The New Hampshire Education Department (NHED), Bureau of Student Wellness and Nutrition, Office of Nutrition Programs and Services (ONPS) received the Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant (ARPA) through the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.). This act establishes a Farm to School Program to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in USDA Food and Nutrition (FNS) Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The NHED was awarded the requested \$689,627.00 for this 4-year USDA Farm to School State Agency Formula Grant (ARPA). The Department is requesting appropriation of \$114,054.00 for the first year of the grant.

The importance of the Farm to School infrastructure to supply chain resiliency became evident during the supply chain disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. School food authorities and State agencies with strong Farm to School practices already in place were better able to adapt to the disruptions. Providing the Farm to School State Formula Grants to all State agencies prioritizes improvement of supply chain resiliency as a whole across State agencies. The agricultural education opportunities for participating children also contribute to agricultural supply chain resiliency because such opportunities build a stronger consumer base and demand for agricultural products as well as increase interest in supporting or even becoming an agricultural producer in the future.

These funds will allow NHED ONPS to implement specific objectives of this funding to include to build and increase the capacity of participating institutions to procure and use local food in program meals; and to provide agricultural education opportunities for participating children. Activities to include training and technical assistance for local producers and program operators; Local food promotional and educational activities for participating institutions and children (such as Harvest of the Month promotions or “crunches”); and Outreach to local producers or participating institutions not engaged in farm to school.

These funds will also allow the NHED to partner with local organizations to coordinate and host trainings across the state. The NHED ONPS looks forward to work on this project to help strengthen Farm to School market channels, training on Farm to School and increase local food in schools.

The NHED, upon receipt of regulatory and guidance documents from the United States Department of Agriculture, will reimburse funds, when applicable, in regulation with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service guidelines. The NHED will pay reimbursements and deliver funds via the existing reporting and application software, the online MyNHDOE Food and Nutrition System (F&N). State agency will competitively award

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subgrants to School Food Authorities (SFAs) and schools, based on the application and attestation process, following the requirements of USDA's Child Nutrition Programs.

In support of the objectives noted above, the Department commits to: The notification must include the information on the proper use of funds and instructions for completing the required attestation/application of need/eligibility as a prerequisite for accepting funds. The department commits to document and retain records of all activities related to its administration of reimbursement, consistent with standard review and recordkeeping requirements of the Child Nutrition Programs.

The following appropriation authorities are being requested:

Class	Class Description	Explanation
020-500200	Current Expenses	Appropriation to cover materials and supplies that will be used by staff.
029-500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	Appropriation to internal program support.
030-500311	Equipment New Replacement	Appropriation to provide new equipment to staff working on the grant.
038-500177	Technology-Software	Appropriation for new computer software.
040-500800	Indirect Costs	Appropriation to meet the State of NH Statewide Cost Allocation Plan Obligations.
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	Appropriation is based on .1 percent of the grant.
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	Appropriation to cover post retirement costs at the current rate of 7.46 percent.
050-500109	Personal Service Temp	Appropriation to cover cost allocation of salary.
060-500601	Benefits	Appropriation to cover Health, Dental, Life, Medicare, FICA, and Retirement Contributions for cost allocated employees.
070-500704	In State Travel Reimb	Appropriation to cover travel for in state meetings, presentations, and technical assistance.
072-500577	Grants Federal	Appropriation for the distribution of funds to grant sub-recipients.
080-500710	Out of State Travel Reimb	Appropriation to cover staff travel to attend out of state meetings, conferences, and presentations.
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	Appropriation to contract with providers of evaluation services, technical assistance, and trainings.

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted  
  
 Frank Edelblut  
 Commissioner of Education

1. GRANTOR AGENCY: USDA - Food and Nutrition Service		2. APPROPRIATION: See below under Appropriation column					
3. NH EDUCATION DEPT. BUS MA 101 Pleasant Street CONCORD VENDOR NO. S3391501 000 NH 03301		4. TITLE OF GRANT: TEFAP OSEC AM RES					
5. APPORTIONMENT YEAR: 2022 GAD NUMBER: 4NH202031 AMENDMENT: 000		6. ESTIMATED ANNUAL GRANT AWARD:					
7. GRANT PERIOD FROM: 09/30/2022 GRANT PERIOD TO: 09/30/2026							
APPROPRIATION	FAIN	ACCOUNT ID	PCA TITLE	CFDA NO.	PREVIOUS LEVEL	INCREASE/DECREASE	CURRENT LEVEL
12X0408	224NH03112003	2022211200344	- FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS ARPA	10.645	\$0.00	\$689,627.00	\$689,627.00
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$689,627.00</b>	<b>\$689,627.00</b>

9. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS  
Please note that the Financial Official (FO) assigned by the above grantee organization is responsible for maintaining valid banking information for this grant. This includes certifying that correct routing and transit numbers(ABA/RTN) and bank account numbers have been entered into the ASAP.gov payment system. The Food and Nutrition Service and the United States Treasury are not responsible for a misdirected payment in the event that the FO entered the incorrect ABA/RTN or bank account number information.

10. AUTHORIZATION ALLOWANCE HOLDER (DESIGNEE) Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Office 10 Causeway Street, Room 501		SIGNATURE: - Electronically Signed by - LISA FITZGERALD	
Boston MA 02222 Telephone: 617-565-5300		DATE: 09/30/2022 TELEPHONE NO: 617-565-6460	