



Feed Our Future Producer Cost-Share Program

Feed Our Future (FOF) has a new opportunity to support a cost-share program for farmers and food producers in Ohio. This pilot cost-share program allows FOF to support growers and food producers in readying their operations for third party audits. Third party audits are often required for farmers and food producers that want to enter the school supply chain via a distribution partner. This cost-share program is intended to provide support to producers that have been historically underinvested in, with a specific focus on those new, small/medium, BIPOC and businesses with owners that identified as a socially disadvantaged group

This pilot program is dedicated to investing \$35,000 in to historically underinvested farmers and food producers committed to serving schools districts in the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 school year.

We define socially disadvantaged or historically underinvested in farmers and food producers as:

- A member of a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, sex, national origin, disability, and/or religion.
- Underserved communities – areas in which the population shares a particular characteristic, and geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life

Applications for the 2025 FOF Producer Cost-Share Program are **currently being accepted**. Individual farmers and food producers can be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$4,000.

Eligibility criteria for the Producer Cost-Share program:

Any historically underinvested Ohio farmer or food producer preparing for or completing a third party audit, including but not limited to GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) or GHP (Good Handling Practices) may participate in the FOF Producer Cost-Share Program. Cost share will be up to 75% of the audit or audit preparation cost (see list of eligible items) up to a maximum reimbursement of \$4,000. Reimbursement is available for producers having completed eligible activities for audit participation back to October 1, 2024.

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To receive cost-share program dollars, producers must:

- Complete the application and submit it to Feed Our Future before the deadline
- If selected, pursue audit, audit preparation, or provide proof of previous audit completion back to Oct. 1, 2024, and submit a copy of the invoice or receipt to Feed Our Future to show proof of payment.
- Commit to working with Feed Our Future staff to supply food to schools in 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 school year

Feed Our Future commits to:

- Acknowledging receipt of and reviewing all applications submitted before the deadline.
- Notifying all applicants of their reimbursement status.
- Providing a public report on all producers that did receive reimbursements, including their total reimbursement amount.

Funds are limited for 2025 and are specifically allocated to historically underinvested small and medium-sized farmers and food producers in Ohio. Producers are encouraged to submit applications before the deadline, as submissions after the deadline may not be funded.

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions document on our website for more information.



About Feed Our Future

Feed Our Future is dedicated to making fresh, local food accessible to ALL children, regardless of their school. We help connect schools with local food sources to improve student nutrition and well-being.

Learn More

Visit FeedOurFuture.org to learn how our initiatives support your school nutrition programs.