Feed Our Future School Equipment Cost-Share Program

Feed Our Future (FOF) has a new opportunity to support a cost-share program for schools and school districts in Northeast Ohio. For over a decade, Feed Our Future has been working with schools to serve fresh, healthy, and local food through its farm to school initiative. This cost-share program allows FOF to support schools in purchasing items that will help them serve local foods. This cost-share program is intended to provide support to schools who have students with the greatest need, with a specific focus on schools that have high percentages of BIPOC students and/or economically disadvantaged students.

This pilot program is dedicated to investing \$20,000 in to school kitchens in historically underinvested schools and school districts in the 2024-2025 school year.

- Defining BIPOC students: BIPOC is an acronym for Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- Defining economically disadvantaged students: economically disadvantaged students are those who are eligible or reside in a household where a member is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and/or is a recipient or has a guardian who is a recipient of public assistance.

Applications for the 2024-2025 FOF School Equipment Cost-Share Program are **currently being accepted.** Individual school buildings can be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$2,000. School districts can be reimbursed a maximum of \$4,000.

Eligibility criteria for the School Equipment Cost-Share program are as follows:

- 75% of the cost of school kitchen equipment will be reimbursed where at least 75% of students are BIPOC and/or economically disadvantaged
- 50% of the cost of school kitchen equipment will be reimbursed where 51%-74% of students are BIPOC and/or economically disadvantaged

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To receive cost-share program dollars, schools or school districts must:

- Complete the application and submit it to Feed Our Future before the deadline.
- If selected, purchase requested school kitchen equipment and submit a copy of the receipt(s) to Feed Our Future to show proof of payment.
- Currently be purchasing local or commit to purchasing local foods through the Ohio Schools Council bid for the 2025-2026 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 schools that did receive reimbursements, including their total reimbursement amount.

Funds are currently limited for the 2024-2025 school year for schools or school districts serving a majority BIPOC and/or economically disadvantaged school districts. We will consider expanding eligibility as funding allows.

Please see our <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> for more info.



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.