

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: FY23 AWARDEES

In 2021, the Massachusetts Food for Massachusetts Kids Coalition advocated for the establishment of the first state grant program to fund efforts that connect students in early childhood centers and K-12 schools to local agriculture through food education, local sourcing, and community partnerships. With significant support from legislative champions across Massachusetts, \$1,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds were allocated to pilot the MA FRESH Grant Program.



Administered by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in partnership with the MA Department of Early Education and Care, this program provides funds for K-12 and early education and care providers to start up or expand their local foods purchasing and education efforts. Funds can be used for infrastructure investments such as kitchen equipment or garden installation as well as professional development for educators and school nutrition staff, and enrichment and educational activities for students.

In 2023, DESE awarded 17 grants to public school districts and early childcare providers, across Massachusetts. This was a highly competitive grants program with over 60 applicants requesting over \$1,600,000 in grant funds.

K-12 Grant Awardees

Boston Public Schools
Bridge Boston Charter School
Fitchburg Public Schools
Gloucester Public Schools
Medway Public Schools
Northampton Public Schools
Provincetown School District
RFK Alliance/Dr. Franklin Perkins School
Shaloh School Oholei Torah
Somerville Public Schools
Springfield Public Schools



Early Education Grant Awardees

Assonet Daycare
Guild of St Agnes of Worcester
MetroNorth YMCA
Pre-K Kids
Southshore YMCA
Rainbow Child Development

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit <https://www.massfarmtoschool.org/mafresh-grant>

MA FOOD FOR MA KIDS COALITION MEMBERS

Massachusetts Food for Massachusetts Kids is a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations who believe all students deserve healthy, high quality meals and engaging food education at school.

Massachusetts Farm to School

FoodCorps Massachusetts

Backyard Growers

Central Mass Grown

Chicopee Public Schools

Commonwealth Kitchen

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

Farm to Institution New England

Franklin County Community Development Corporation

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

Good Egg Marketing

Grow Food Northampton

Healthcare Without Harm

Healthy Chelsea

Island Grown Initiative

Innovation Academy Charter School

Lincoln Public Schools

The Marion Institute

Massachusetts Environmental Education Society

Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

Mill City Grows

New Bedford Public Schools

No Kid Hungry

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

Project Bread

Regional Environmental Council

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

Salem Food for All

Salem Public Schools

School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts

School Sprouts Educational Gardens

Share Our Strength

South Boston En Acción

Sustainable Nantucket

Three Sisters Garden Project

Webster Public Schools