

Q&A: FY24 Food System Infrastructure Grant Program

Can schools apply?

Schools cannot be the primary applicant for this application. However, for schools that are already working with a Food Assistance Provider (FAP) that is involved in food rescue/recovery and/or local sourcing efforts, the FAP may be eligible to apply for cold storage infrastructure that will support continued food security initiatives at the school site.

Alternatively, if a school is working directly with a food-producing community garden and/or a local farm involved in both food security **and** local procurement efforts, the garden/farm may be eligible to apply for cold storage infrastructure that will support continued partnership with the school.

Can applicants combine these grant funds with other grants funds for projects that have not yet been completed?

Yes, leveraging additional funds is permitted. However, you are not permitted to put this funding toward purchases that have already been made.

Can these funds be used to support purchasing vehicles for transportation?

You can use these grant funds to purchase vehicles with cold storage, such as refrigerated trucks that allow for safe storage and transport of food, but vehicles without cold storage are not eligible.

Some examples of eligible projects models that will be considered for funding include, but are not limited to:

- A shared cold storage unit constructed by a farm that serves as a food aggregation site for use by other local farmers to store products until the point-of-sale;
- Installation of a walk-in freezer at a food assistance provider site that will allow the organization to expand food recovery capacity and provide additional and more diverse foods to residents experiencing food insecurity;

- A food assistance provider has a refrigerated truck that needs a major repair, and fixing it would allow them to resume food recovery from local grocery stores;

Applicants are **not** limited by the list above and are highly encouraged to incorporate data- driven recommendations into their proposals that demonstrate an understanding of local cold storage, aggregation, and food recovery needs and that will have the greatest impact for food insecure individuals mentioned in the target population.