

School Food Grants Workshop (May 2026)

School District 85 Pro-D Day: Food for Thought: Sustainability in Schools

Grant Writing for Teachers

Elise Boulanger

www.EliseBoulanger.com/Consultant

How-Tos & Guidelines

Question: What do food security and food sovereignty mean to you?

- What do you need in order to have this?
- What infrastructure/equipment/training would help?
- Why you?
- Why now?

School Food Security Grants/Programs

- **Backpack Buddies Program**
 - Backpack Buddies deliveries are coordinated through teachers, administrators, and social workers who advise on the needs of their students and identify the children who could benefit most from receiving a bag of food for the weekend
 - Offer Spring Break and School's Out programs
 - No deadlines. Relationship-based
- **Farm to School Canada Grant**
 - This grant supports projects that cultivate food literacy and inspire K–12 students to explore, learn, and grow through hands-on food experiences
 - Must now submit expression of interest by March 20, 2026
 - Great starter grant! Sea View Elementary was a 2025 recipient
 - Up to \$1,000
- **Farm to Cafeteria Grant & Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grant** *no recipients yet from VI
 - This grant is intended to implement a healthy meal service that allows students to choose from a variety of ingredients that are as locally and sustainably sourced as possible. It allows students to experience hands-on food literacy activities and engage with the food system in their school community & The Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants provide funding for Indigenous school communities throughout Canada to support their long-term community visions of Indigenous food security and food sovereignty that are implemented in the school setting
 - Often supports 30-40 schools across Canada. Alert Bay Elementary School was a 2024 recipient for Farm to Cafeteria Grant
 - Accepting applications until May 8, 2026
 - Up to \$10,000
- **Indigenous Sports and Recreation Council (I-SPARC)'s Honour Your Health Grant**
 - This grant is to support the delivery of an Indigenous RunWalkWheel program or Honour Your Health Challenge focused on one or more of the key healthy living areas: physical activity, healthy eating, respecting tobacco, and healthy communities. It supports an 8-week community-based program that encourages innovation and needs-based approaches to promoting healthy, active lifestyles in First Nations,

Métis Chartered Communities, and Friendship Centres throughout the province

- Grant funding is contingent upon participating in their two-day Healthy Leader Training. Closest location is typically in Snuneymuxw/Nanaimo
- Great network of people and supports
- Up to \$1,000

- **Indigenous Sports and Recreation Council (I-SPARC)'s Food Systems Program Grant**
 - As part of the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council's (I-SPARC) Healthy Living programming, the Food Systems Program (FSP) supports Indigenous communities in reaching their food sovereignty and food security goals. The Food Systems Program distributes grant opportunities and provides support with capacity building, technical training, networking, and cultural sharing through in-person gatherings, online education/events, and resource sharing
 - To open Spring 2026
 - Up to \$5,000 grants* for food-related activities, equipment, and infrastructure. Possible top-up of \$3,000 from the Learning Together, Growing Together Fund

- **United Way BC's School's Out 25/26 *not currently available**
 - This grant is to ensure children are safe, protected, and enjoy healthy and culturally nutritional snacks in the critical after school hours, while participating in activities that support them to reach their full potential
 - Up to \$70,000

- **United Way BC's School Food Infrastructure Grant *not currently available, requires community partner**
 - This grant provides up to \$50,000 in funding for infrastructure to enhance school food programs across British Columbia by improving access to nourishing, culturally preferred food for students and families
 - The SFIG is an open call for eligible not-for-profit organizations engaged in school food programs. The funding can be used to purchase, update, lease, or share food infrastructure, supporting critical needs like food preparation, storage, and transportation

Additional grants and funding opportunities for school food programs:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/feeding-futures/funding>