

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Expanding 3Es Nutrition Education Grants
FAQ

Eligibility Questions

1. To be eligible for the grant, does the program already have to be in place to supplement or expand or can it be a brand new program?

Answer: The program can be a new or existing program that meets the criteria outlined in the [RFA](#). The intent of the grant is to *implement, supplement or extend* a coordinated health school health program or farm to school educational activities /nutrition education/other experiential learning opportunities teaching students about nutrition education, exercise and eating right.

2. Are there predetermined or minimum percentage rates of children that qualify for free/reduced that the school must have to be awarded the grant?

Answer: There is not a minimum percentage of free/reduced needed to apply for or to be approved for the grant, although it may be considered in the review process. Please refer to the Evaluation and Selection Information section of the [Request for Application](#) (RFA) for additional information.

3. My school currently participates in another TDA grant program, is the school eligible to apply for the Expanding 3Es grant?

Answer: This grant is available for public schools only. Having an open grant under a different TDA program does not prohibit the school from applying for and receiving an Expanding 3E's award.

Programmatic Questions

4. What are supplements to CATCH or SPARK + Healthy and Wise?

Answer: Items necessary in implementing, supplementing or the extending a new or currently existing coordinated school health program or farm to school educational activities /nutrition education would be eligible. Allowable expenditures may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Program supplies or materials
- Instructor/coordinator salary or stipends
- Staff training
- Educational materials

5. Can you provide any other examples of supplementing or extending a coordinated program?

Answer:

- Offering programs to all grade levels, more campuses or more frequently
- Adding additional components of such as physical, health and nutrition education

6. Can the school use the grant to cover expenses for building a greenhouse (material, contractor, etc) or supplies for an already existing greenhouse (gloves, books, plants, etc.)?

Answer: Expenses necessary in building a greenhouse or supplies to operate an existing greenhouse that are used to improve the students understanding of agriculture and/or nutrition would be considered eligible.

Per the grant guidelines, funds may not be used to purchase capital equipment (items costing \$5,000 or more). A school may choose to use fund for some expenses related to a greenhouse. Please refer to evaluation criteria in the [RFA](#).

7. In regards to supplementing or extending Farm Fresh Friday, would a program such as Brighter Bites qualify?

Answer: The supplementing/extending a Brighter Bites project would meet the criteria of educating children regarding good nutrition. Please refer to evaluation criteria in the RFA .

8. What are examples of farm to school educational activities, independent of Farm Fresh Friday, that may qualify?

Answer: Below are some examples of farm to school educational activities:

Garden-based learning activities- may include almost any lesson historically taught in the classroom (i.e., math: measuring the distance between seeds during planting, science: mapping the decomposition process with compost used in the garden, art: students drawing an interpretation of the garden or parts of a plant, health education: tasting fruits or vegetables grown in the garden)

Nutrition- or Agricultural-focused classroom lessons - may include any lesson focused on agriculture, many schools use [Texas Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom](#) materials; TDA has posted educational resources for classroom lessons [here](#)

Other experiential learning opportunities teaching students about Texas agriculture- This category is open for the applicant; *it may include, but is not limited to*, students field trips to local farmer or farmers markets, or invite local farmers to school to speak to students, both are examples of a connecting students to local agriculture.

Payment Questions

9. What is the expected turnaround time for reimbursement of eligible expenses? For example, if a grantee submits payment requests monthly or quarterly, how long will it take for each of those requests to be approved and paid?

Answer: Once a completed Request for Payment form (GTBD-203 form), itemized list of expenditures and backup supporting documentation are received, the turnaround time for payment is approximately 30 days.

10. In the RFA, it only says that up to 90% of the total award will be paid prior to submission of the Final Performance Report. What does this mean?

Answer: In order to ensure grantees submit all required reports, a portion of the award (10%) will not be reimbursed to the grantee until all reporting requirements have been met. Example: If a grantee submits a payment request for the entire grant award but still has a final report due in 30 days, TDA will process a payment for 90% of the request. The remaining 10% will not be processed until after the final report has been submitted to TDA.

11. When will the school receive funds to start the project?

Answer: Funds will not be advanced to the school. TDA will reimburse the school for expenses directly related to implementing the approved project. The school must front all costs and submit sufficient documentation to receive reimbursement.

Other Questions

12. Is the EXPAND 3Es grant replacing the Urban Schools grant.

Answer: No, the Request for Applications related to the Urban Schools Agricultural Grant Program is being finalized by TDA. It should be posted on TDA's website by the end of April.

13. We are an ISD currently participating in the Urban Schools grant which ends 9/30/2015, should we apply for the Expanding 3Es?

Answer: All public schools whether participating in the Urban Schools grant or not are eligible to apply to the Expanding 3Es grant.