

March 28, 2025

Good afternoon CT Farm to School Community,

We are sending this to ensure everyone has updated information about the federal impacts to farm to school at this moment, and an understanding of how the Collaborative and partners are moving forward.

- **Local Food For Schools and Child Care Program (LFSCC)** and Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA) planned for later this year were terminated by the federal government earlier this month.
  - **What does this mean?** At this point, no new federal funds will be provided for these programs. These funds were never in our state's hands to begin with, but \$5.65 million was promised for the future. LFS funding from the first round, launched in December 2021, remains available - and there is a tight deadline to spend it (April 30th).
  - Informational resources:
    - [Coverage of Senator Murphy & Blumenthal's Press Conference on the cancellation of LFS and LFPA](#) (Way to go Renee & Randall!)
    - [FoodCorps statement](#)
    - [National Farm to School Network's blog post & action alert](#)
- The **FY25 USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program** was cancelled just this week (March 24th). Applicants received word via email from USDA that their application was no longer being submitted and questions could not be answered.
  - **What does this mean?** Despite being congressionally authorized, there will be no federal farm to school grant resources for the fiscal year. We know of at least four multi-partner projects that will not have the chance to move forward as a result of this cancellation.
  - Informational resources:
    - [National Farm to School Network's Blog post](#)

So what can we do?

1. **Tell your story & share the impact!** [Reach out to CT's U.S. Senators and Members of Congress](#) to share your disappointment and the story of how the cancellation of these funds will impact your farm, school, operation, and/or youth.
2. **Advocate for state support of farm to school-** Reach out to your state legislators and make sure they know about these federal cuts to farm to school. Ask for support of [HB 7013](#) to ensure there is continued state funding for farm to school grants and funds for local foods in school meal programs. **Preserving CT Grown for CT Kids and CT Local Food for Schools Program is paramount at this moment!**
  - a. Reach out to members of the CT Appropriations Committee for support on HB 7013. See this [Latest Advocacy Actions Document](#) for all the details.
3. ***If you are a School Food Authority-*** please use the tools, resources, and support to capture LFS funds from the first round of funds before they expire on April 30th. [Connect with your Farm to School Regional Coordinator for support!](#)

**Other helpful information and resources about federal funding cuts:**

- For a crowd-sourced document with other farmer and agricultural related federal cuts and impact, please [visit this document](#) created by our partners at New CT Farmers Alliance and CT NOFA.
- To protect CEP in current budget reconciliation, participate in [FoodCorps' CEP action alert](#).
- [Civil Eats Food Policy Tracker](#)

Feel free to reach out if you have questions - we're all navigating this together.

Take care,  
Dawn

**Dawn Crayco**

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