



Ministry of Education and Child Care School Food Innovation Grant Application

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is running a one-time grant program to help school districts identify and/or implement initiatives that increase efficiencies in the delivery of school food programs. Example initiatives could include, but are not limited to, development of tools/resources that increase the quality of school food programs, technology that supports bulk purchasing, contracts to support BC food procurement, or centralized storage infrastructure. School districts are encouraged to develop and submit applications with local First Nations and/or other school districts and partner with organizations that have expertise in school food program delivery, coordinated food procurement, and/or food distribution.

Funding Details:

- The purpose of this grant funding is to support innovative school district projects or initiatives that improve school food program quality across multiple districts or a large geographic region, including by developing new resources, increasing economies of scale, and/or increasing program cost savings.
- A total of up to \$1,000,000 in one-time grant funding is available. Individual grant applications may be up to \$100,000.
- Projects or initiatives funded through this grant will be expected to start by **October 1, 2026**.
- Districts will have until **June 30, 2027** to expend the funds. A high-level interim report on progress of the project and fund use and a final report on expenditures and project outcomes, due to the Ministry by **July 31, 2027**, will be required.
- Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:
 - Partnership development with third parties/external organizations to improve collaboration within the supply chain and increase supply of food to multiple school districts and/or First Nations. Partnerships with not-for-profit organizations are encouraged.
 - Equipment or infrastructure improvements¹ that create reduced costs and increased food volumes for multiple school districts and/or First Nations.
 - Technology and/or tools to improve the efficiency of the food supply chain.
 - Development of resources and/or tools that improve the educational quality of school food programs.
- Grant funding may be used to expand, enhance, or adapt existing projects provided that the purpose of this grant funding is adhered to.

¹ Note: Infrastructure improvements made with grant funding must not add square footage to an existing school facility or convert educational classroom space to a kitchen.



- Grant funding must not be used for purchasing food for school food programs or offsetting district/school staffing costs.

Examples of Potential Eligible Projects (this list is not exhaustive):

- Hiring a third-party organization or consultant to develop direct sourcing models or bulk purchasing opportunities.
- Seeking consultant services to develop resources that incorporate local food literacy into school food programs.
- Improving or expanding cold storage equipment/infrastructure (e.g., within the district, a community partner, or at a local food hub).
- Contracting third-party organizations to pilot increased BC food aggregation or procurement.
- Establishing an online platform for schools to make bulk purchases.
- Purchasing a refrigerated vehicle to pick up and deliver products to multiple schools/school districts.

Grant Application Details:

- Complete and submit the below application form by email to ECC.schoolfood@gov.bc.ca by **June 30, 2026**.
- The following is required for all grant applications (further details are provided in the below application form):
 - Detailed outline of the proposed project/initiative, including proposed activities, required expenses, and options for scalability if the full requested value of the project is not available.
 - Description of how the project will increase school food program quality.
 - Description of how the project will increase the efficiency of Feeding Futures and National School Food Program funding use, such as increasing economies of scale, increasing program cost savings, etc.
 - Description of how the project will benefit local First Nations and/or multiple school districts or a large geographic region.
 - Description of project sustainability once grant funding has ended.
- In the event that more applications are received than grant funding available, the following factors will be prioritized:
 - Joint proposals with a First Nation and/or one or more partner districts.



- Proposals that include partnership with an external organization with expertise in coordinated food procurement and/or distribution (e.g. non-profit food organization, consultant, food or agriculture industry association, business).
- Proposals that support rural or remote areas that face challenges with sourcing, purchasing, and distributing food for school food programs.
- Proposals that create opportunities for BC food businesses, including farmers, fishers, and/or processors.
- Proposals that demonstrate potential to scale up to other school districts or parts of the province outside of the project proposal.
- All applicants will receive a response and decision by **September 4, 2026**.
- Successful proponents will receive grant letters detailing all parameters and accountabilities.
- School districts submitting a joint application must identify a lead school district responsible for receiving the grant, distributing it as agreed locally, and coordinating reports back to the Ministry. Please only submit one grant application per joint project proposal.
- Any questions relating to this grant application process can be directed to ECC.schoolfood@gov.bc.ca.

Please complete and email the application form below to ECC.schoolfood@gov.bc.ca by June 30, 2026.



Project Title:	
School District and/or First Nation Partners (if applicable):	
External Partner Organization(s) (if applicable):	
Lead School District:	Contact Name:
Contact Phone:	Contact Email:
1. What is the amount or range (scalable) of grant funding the district is requesting?	
2. Please provide a detailed summary of the project proposal and how the district will utilize the above requested grant funding by June 30, 2027. Please clearly state the problem this proposal will solve, evidence of the problem, and any external partner organizations (if applicable) involved. Include in the application a completed copy of the Budget Appendix for this proposed project.	



3. How will this project increase the quality of school food programs across a geographic region and/or between multiple school districts and/or local First Nations?

4. How will this project increase the efficiency of Feeding Futures funding use? (e.g., improved educational quality of programs, increased economies of scale, increased program cost savings, etc.)

5. Please describe scalability options (range) for the proposed project if the full value of the grant requested is not available.



6. Please describe how this project will be sustainable once grant funding has ended.

7. How does this proposed project benefit rural or remote areas that face challenges with sourcing, purchasing, and distributing food for school food programs? If this proposed project does not benefit these areas, please put "N/A".



8. How does the district's proposed project create opportunities for BC food businesses, food producers, and/or processors? If the proposed project does not create opportunities for these groups, please put "N/A".

Please use this space to include anything else you would like to highlight in this grant application. (Optional)

Notes:

- Applicants will be assessed primarily on how prompts in this questionnaire are addressed so please be thorough; recipients will have the opportunity to make refinements to their grant-use plans in discussion with Ministry staff.