

Grant Writing Tips and Tricks

For Edible Education

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As you join, feel free to:

- Introduce yourself in the chat! (Name, Role, Location)
- Write any questions you have in the Q&A function



About Us



Agenda

- About us + About you
- Garden Grant funding in the US
- Grant writing tips
 - Breakout session
- Resources
 - Whole Kids Garden Grant 2025
- Questions



About You

- **What: edible education!**
- **Why: seeking funding for a program**
- **Who: school gardens, cooking programs, extra-curricular programs, nonprofit organizations, etc.**
- **But like, who specifically... teachers, students, organization staff, administration, parents, community members**



Poll: Tell us about you!



About Grant Funders

- Who: Non-profit organizations, local/state/federal governmental entities, private groups, corporations, foundations
- Why: Typically, funding will align with the priorities/mission of the funder
- What/Where/When/How: Depends!



Edible Education Funding in the US

\$14+ MILLION
IN FUNDING



\$4,425 MEDIAN
SIZE OF EACH
GRANT



70 MILLION KIDS
Source: US Census



2,876 GRANTS
DISTRIBUTED
TO PROGRAMS



54 STATES, D.C.,
AND TERRITORIES
FUNDED



GARDEN TYPES FUNDED
ACROSS GRANTMAKERS

Non-Edible/Food
26.8%



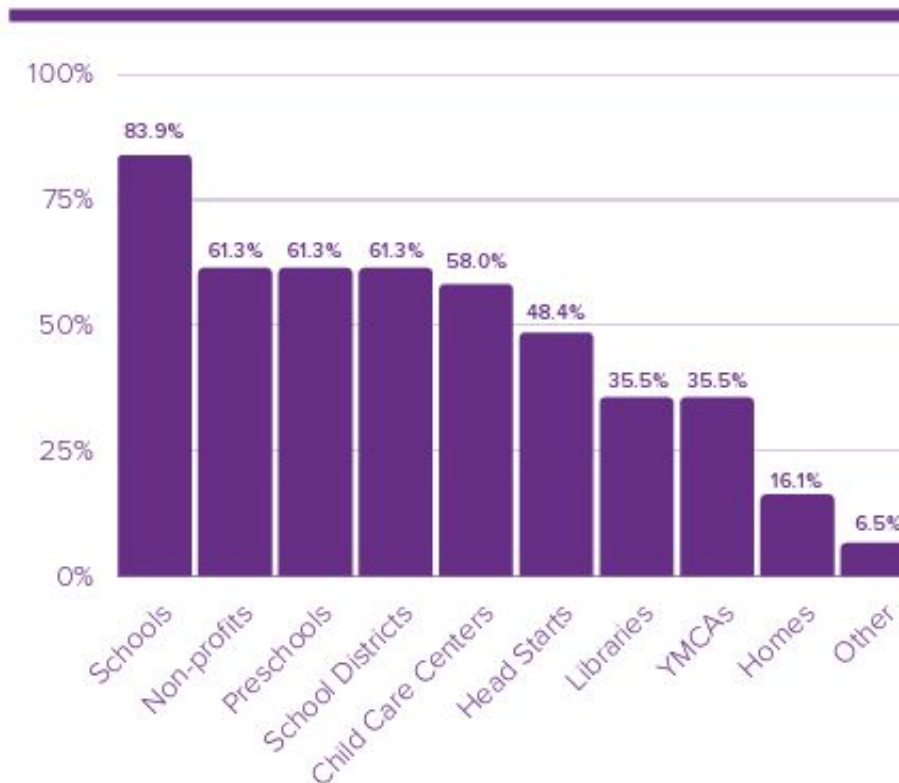
Edible/Food
73.2%

31 ORGS
COMPLETED THE
SURVEY



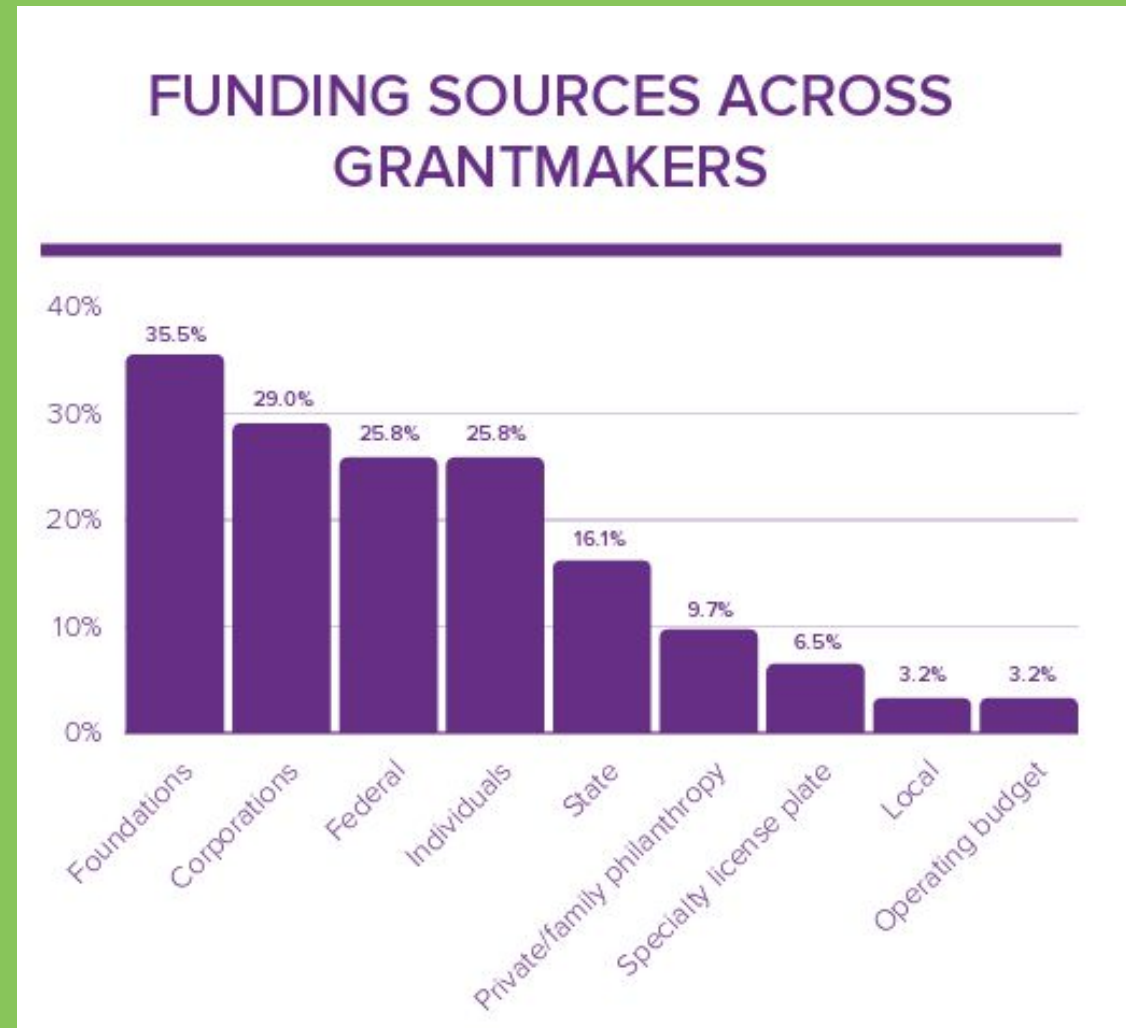
Who is getting funding?

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY GRANTMAKERS



E.g., 83.9% of grantmakers surveyed indicated they funded schools.

Where is the funding coming from?



High Level Tips

- First things first: eligibility!
- Get clear on what you are seeking
 - The best applications are mission-driven and goals-oriented
- Map out your plan for using the funds, + gather materials to apply
- Draft it up! Make sure to highlight:
 - Community connections
 - Student engagement
 - Longevity of the plan/program
- Ask a friend to read it over – don't worry so much about grammar, but is it clear?
- Opportunity in rejection?

Best Practices for Team Collaboration

- Form a core team of diverse stakeholders with specific roles
- Break the proposal into clear sections, assign section owners with specific deadlines
 - E.g. Grant Requirements expert, similar project researcher, materials gatherer
- Set deadlines, then work backwards from them
- Use document version control or track changes



Telling Your Story

Be Specific

Be Unique

Be Concise

Be Realistic

Be Strategic

Be Sustainable

Be Passionate

Be Specific

- Answer the specific question that was asked
- Pick a specific project to focus on if it makes sense
- Use this opportunity to express challenges faced by your particular school/community
- Details > platitudes
 - Who What When Where Why

"This grant will enable us to teach students where food comes from."

< "We will use \$200 to buy worms, a worm bin, clipboards, and soil thermometers so the 5th grade science class can set up their own vermicompost bin to set up a science experiment focused on nutrient cycles, as part of their Earth science unit."



Be Unique

- If you're submitting multiple applications to one funder, make each one stand out!
 - E.g. renewal grants, or as a fiscal sponsor
- How is your application a shining example of a sustainable program?



Be Concise

- Keep it short and sweet: clarity over complexity!
- Use bullet points where you can
- Paint a picture without extraneous details

Be Realistic

- What makes sense for your space / community?
- More is not always better!
- Every project has challenges. How will you overcome yours?
- Evaluation: begin with core metrics, include both quantitative and qualitative measures, look short term and long term, stay grounded in program reality

Be Realistic - Examples

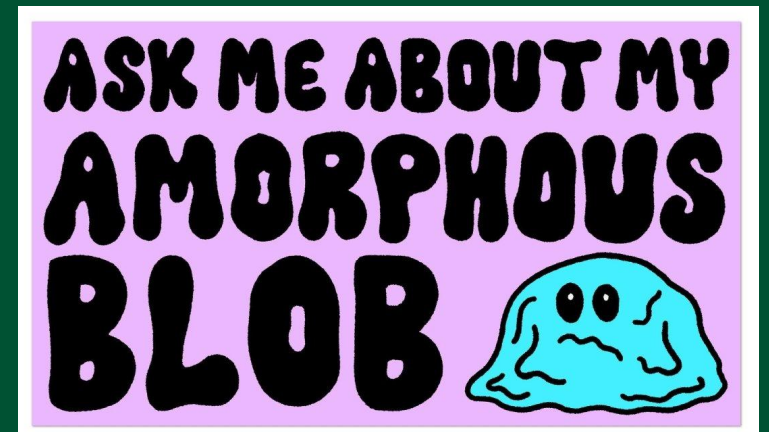
“Last summer we had a hard time getting volunteers to water the garden, but we’re hopeful that this year we’ll recruit more people to help.”

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“We learned a lot last summer when the volunteers we recruited couldn’t keep up with the needs of the garden. At the end of the season we developed a task force that researched and presented alternatives. This spring we will work on outreach to parents, partner organizations, and teachers living in the neighborhood through newsletters, social media and PAC meetings to recruit volunteers.”

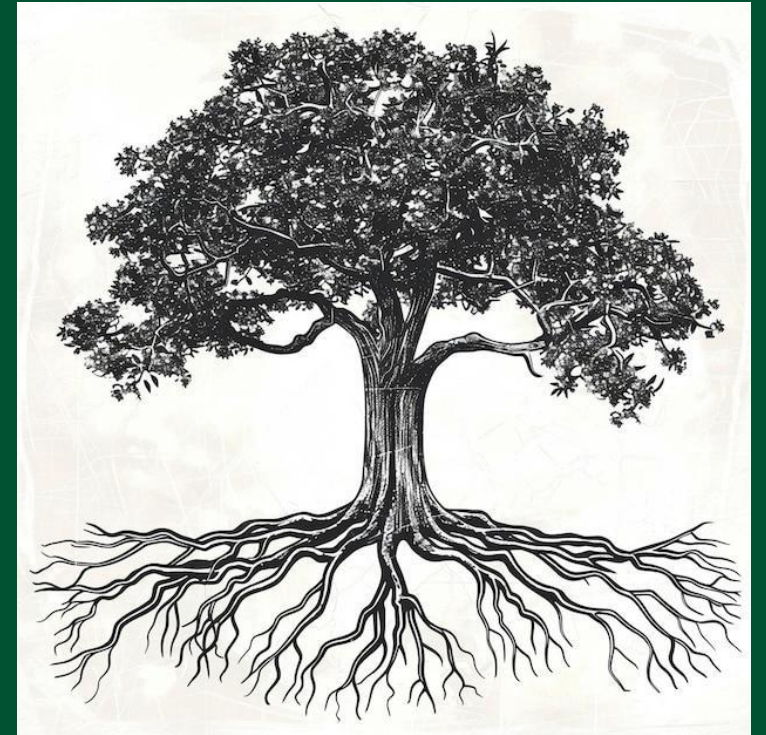
Be Strategic

- Know your audience
- Strategize, but don't stretch too far!



Be Sustainable

- Multiple sources of support, multiple types of support
- Don't be afraid to talk turkey!
- Funders want to know that you have what it takes to stick around



Be Sustainable - Examples

"This is the only grant we plan to apply for. We have the support of our PTA."



"We have received materials from our local Home Depot and gardening store. We applied for a Home Depot school garden grant but did not get it. We plan to reapply this year and to the Annie's gardening grant. We are also ramping up our garden events as a way to garner awareness of our school garden and possibly generate more funds."

Be Passionate

- We care about what you care about!
- Authenticity + brevity > fancy words + extraneous details



Breakout room – 5 min to craft your pitch (1-5 sentences), and 5 min to share with the group

I would like to make the second year of Cool School exceptional. The Garden would be the specific project for the second year. The young people would be eager to discover the learning related to this great project and would feel special. Having a garden bed will give them healthy eating habits. This allows them to access awareness for their entire life. Also, The children discover the exquisite taste of a fruit or a vegetable they grow by themselves. Obviously, this project will empower children. This project will teach perseverance and give a strong sense of pride to everyone.

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Our School Garden Program aims to provide hands-on, project-based 'āina (land) and gardening education to K-12 Hāna School students. Students will engage in natural resource education with a focus on agricultural staples of both traditional and modern Hawaiian cultural significance. Short term, our goal is to engage 150 K-12 youth each year in age-appropriate natural science lessons (e.g., pollination, photosynthesis, natural pest control, soil health, composting) in our 15 garden beds (raised and in-ground). In the long term, we seek to improve health outcomes among youth by facilitating increased connection with the soil and the nutritious food students grow through their educational efforts.





Resources

Resources

[Whole Kids Site](#)

[Grant Writing Tips](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[Edible Schoolyard: Program Development Resources](#)

[National survey on youth garden funding](#)

[Kids Gardening Grant Funding Webinar Series](#)

GRANTS FOR YOUTH GARDENS OVERVIEW

green our planet

Grant Name	Grant Theme and Focus	Application Opens	Eligible Organizations	Award	How can the monetary award funding be spent?
HydroConnect Program Grant	Hydroponic gardens	Rolling	K-12 schools	Equipment and Program/Support grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes 1 large hydroponics system, 15 tabletop systems, supplies Curricula (Hydro STEM, Fin Lit, Health, Conservation), video tutorials, teacher training, digital resource library and online community support for one year. Limited number of grants available each school year covering partial to full program price. 	N/A - equipment and program/support
GardenConnect Program Grant	School gardens	Open Now - June 1st 2024	K-12 schools	Program/Support grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curricula (Garden STEM, Fin Lit, Health, Conservation), video tutorials, teacher training, digital resource library and online community support for one year. Grant recipients receive program at no cost. 	N/A - program/support

kids GARDENING

Grant Name	Grant Theme and Focus	Application Opens	Eligible Organizations	Award	How can the monetary award funding be spent?
Lots of Compassion Grant	Vacant lot transformations	April 2024	Tax-exempt organizations	\$20,000 cash award	- gardening supplies - personnel such as a garden coordinator or educator
Budding Botanist Grant	Biodiversity and sustainability	September 2024	Schools (public, private, charter)	\$500 cash award	
Youth Garden Grant	Youth gardens	November 2024	Any organization type, no restrictions	\$500 cash award and a box of gardening supplies valued at \$1,000	
Gr4MoreGood Grassroots Grant	Youth gardens and green spaces	January 2025	Tax-exempt organizations	\$500-\$1,500 cash award	- gardening supplies - 50% max on personnel

[Click here for resource!](#)

Whole Kids Supports Schools Through:

School Food Support & Salad Bars

Healthy Staff Program

Garden Grants

Bee Grants



Whole Kids Garden Grant

- Annual cycle - Open now through Mar. 5th!
- \$3,500 to new or existing school gardens
- You tell us the plan!
- No deadline by which funds must be spent
- Can be used on nearly anything for the school garden
- Ask for progress report a year after funding



Who do we support?

- Schools across the US and Canada serving at least 10 students
- Any type of edible garden, new or existing
- Prioritize awarding applicants encountering barriers to accessing healthy food and nutrition education
- Usually receive around 1,000 school applications
- This year we will fund 750!



What we're looking for

- Youth involvement in the garden
- Connection to healthy eating
- Integration into academics and school or overall community
- Administrative buy-in
- Sustainability
- Thorough and thoughtful garden plan



A group of approximately ten diverse volunteers of various ages and ethnicities are gathered in an outdoor garden setting. They are holding shovels and some are holding fresh produce like leafy greens and tomatoes. They are standing behind a wooden raised garden bed. In the foreground, there are several wheelbarrows, one of which is yellow and has the brand name 'TRUE TEMPER' visible. The background shows a playground with colorful equipment and a fence. The overall atmosphere is positive and community-oriented.

Questions?
Tips of your own to share?



Team Member Volunteers, New Orleans



Thank you!

Find us at:

<https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org>

<https://edibleschoolyard.org>