

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg Agriculture**

**Farm to School Project FY2025**

West Virginia University at Parkersburg's Agriculture program is dedicated to fostering sustainable farming practices and promoting healthy eating habits within the community. In alignment with the nationwide SNAP-Ed initiative, our Agriculture program is actively involved in supporting growers through the SNAP-Ed Project for FY2025. By focusing on improving access to locally grown produce and encouraging healthy food choices, we aim to address the nutritional needs of SNAP recipients and low-income individuals while promoting physical activity and wellness. Through initiatives such as supporting growers for farm-to-school production and providing funding for production enhancements, WVUP Agriculture is committed to creating a healthier future for our community.

**Project Funding:**

1. **Supporting Growers for Farm-to-School Production:** WVUP Agriculture will allocate funds to contract growers for their time dedicated to producing farm-to-school produce. This funding will enhance efficiency and contribute to the development of a strong network of local growers, thereby increasing access to locally grown produce markets.
2. **Encouraging Healthy Choices:** Funds will be directed towards providing growers in the MOV region with projects aimed at improving production yields. This includes supporting innovative and efficient upgrades to operations, such as implementing drip irrigation systems, purchasing organic fertilizers, or installing energy-efficient equipment. Additionally, funds will facilitate the adoption of sustainable methods, such as composting initiatives or transitioning to organic farming practices. Growers will be encouraged to adopt best practices for pest management, such as integrated pest management strategies or investing in natural pest deterrents. **Growers can receive up to $500 for necessary supplies and materials to enhance their farm-to-school produce production efforts.**

To receive funding for the SNAP-Ed project, growers should meet certain requirements to ensure alignment with the project's goals and guidelines. By meeting these requirements, growers can ensure their eligibility for funding and contribute effectively to the objectives of the SNAP-Ed project, ultimately promoting healthier lifestyles and nutrition education within the community. These requirements may include:

* Must be within MOV region,
* Must deliver produce to localized aggregation point,
* Must demonstrate commitment to producing agricultural products specifically for farm-to-school,
* Must comply to monthly check-ins & crop updates,
* Must obtain a valid food handler card in the state of West Virginia,
* Must provide monthly pesticide usage documentation.

**Proposal Ideas**

* **Innovative/Efficient upgrades to the Operation**
	+ Small Equipment & Tools (Rakes, Shovels, etc.)
	+ Seeds, soil, plants
	+ Irrigation Supplies
	+ Harvesting & Packing Supplies (Bins, baskets, etc.)
	+ Pest Management Supplies
	+ Fertilizers

Please complete the proposal form on the following pages and return them Hannah Morgan at Hannah.morgan@wvup.edu. If you have questions, you can e-mail or phone Mrs. Morgan at 304-424-8343.

The completed proposal form will be reviewed and determined whether the proposal reflects the guiding principles of SNAP-Ed. You will receive a copy of your proposal form with an authorized signature, including the approved amount, when the request has been approved. Please follow the preferred purchasing procedure below to ensure accountability and for auditing purposes: Once the proposal has been approved, WVUP will authorize payment to the payee listed on the proposal form. Payment should be received within thirty days of receipt of required forms.

References

Retrieved from <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/snap/SNAP-Ed%20Factsheet%20_August%202016.pdf>

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**

**Farm to School Project Form**

2024-2025

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Producer Name:** |  |
| **Name & Email Address of Person** **Requesting Funds:** |  |
| **Name & Email Responsible for Pictures of Grant Materials in Use (if different from above):** |  |
| **Producer Address:** |  |
| **Producer Phone:** |  |
| **Total Amount Requested:** |  |
|  |  |
| **Provide a description of operational capacity and expected crop yields related to this project.** |
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| **How will you use the funds awarded in the project?** Please include a listing and description of the project, activities, materials, and/or resources to be purchased. |
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| Provide an itemized cost for each item requested.  |
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| **Provide an overview of your operation.** (Production History, Growing Methods, Licensing, etc.) |
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| **Provide a listing of objectives this project hopes to achieve.**  |
|  |
| **Identify if you are an underserved farmer or rancher?** (Minority, women, veteran, beginning farmer, limited resource producer.) |
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 **Approved by: Approved Amount:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| Name | Date |  |  |