



## Request for Applications: SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT

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Release Date: 11/18/2019

Deadline for Submission:

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019 @ 9:00 A.M. PST**

**For additional information, please contact:**

Gabrielle Lamarre, Title I Director & Federal Liaison  
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## **BACKGROUND**

Encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is an ongoing priority for many Nevada schools to promote healthy living and learning for Nevada youth. School gardens serve this effort as an educational outlet where students can learn applied sciences and the nutritional value of a plant-based diet. Through the implementation of a school garden, educators are able to provide an environment that serves the learning goals of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programming.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 458](#) was passed to encourage elementary-level Title I schools to establish and maintain school gardens to practice the sciences in a hands-on setting ([NRS 389.520](#)). SB 458 allows the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Office of Student and School Supports (OSSS), to allocate funding to qualifying non-profit organizations for the creation and maintenance of school garden programs in K-5 Title I schools.

Applications will be due December 18, 2019 in order to be considered for funding in fiscal year 2019-2020. This document outlines the eligibility criteria, program requirements, and application process for non-profit organizations interested in applying for the grant. This is a competitive award process and a panel will review all applications using a rubric to evaluate program plans and objectives.

Contact Gabrielle Lamarre, Title I Director and Federal Liaison, with questions during the questions and answer period by e-mail at [glamarre@doe.nv.gov](mailto:glamarre@doe.nv.gov).

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

### CRITERIA

1. Must be a non-profit organization, authorized to conduct business in the State of Nevada, with at least two years of experience implementing a school garden program.
2. Must identify the partnering K-5 Title I school where the garden program has been or will be implemented during the grant period.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Selected recipients of this award must agree to the following:

- Establish and maintain a garden on campus grounds.
- Have a curriculum that incorporates STEM within the school garden program.
- Track data on school garden activities and evidence of student learning.
- Obtain a Producer's Certificate through the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) if the produce is to be consumed in cafeteria and/or distributed to the general public.
- Implement an official food safety plan designed to ensure that food grown in a school garden is properly handled and safe to sell and consume.
- Implement school garden program that:
  - ✓ Is tailored to students at each of the appropriate grade levels and for the desert environment of Nevada.
  - ✓ Complies with the standards of content and performance for a course of study in science adopted by the State Board of Education.
  - ✓ Uses experiential learning or project-based learning to teach science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.
  - ✓ Involves supervised learning experiences for the pupils in both classroom and garden settings.
  - ✓ Provides pupils with the ability to operate a farmers market to sell produce from the school garden and the opportunity to receive assistance and learning experiences from members of the community.

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### EXPENDITURES

This award is intended to provide professional development and programmatic support to Title I schools that have implemented, or intend to implement, a school garden program.

Award allocations to qualifying non-profit organizations may be used to provide professional development for teachers to advance the following goals:

- Enhance instructional practices to support students with disabilities in school garden programs including, but not limited to, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curricula and vocational training to create a career path in horticulture.
- Develop and implement STEM curriculum that incorporates the use of a school garden program.
- Create and maintain school garden to increase time allocated to STEM instruction.
- Develop and implement a food safety plan that ensures food grown in a school garden is safe for sale and consumption.
- Provide travel support to teachers to attend school garden conferences held in State.

Award allocations may also be used to provide programmatic support by supplying the garden with the materials necessary to carry out the goals of the program and ensure the appropriate and necessary supplies are accessible to program participants. Some examples of allowable supplies include:

- Garden bed material
- Garden tools
- Health and safety equipment
- Soil and media
- Seeds
- Fertilizer, repellent, etc.

All costs must be necessary, reasonable, and allowable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the award.

Reasonable expenses at GSA per diem rate for mileage, registration, hotel and meals are allowable for school garden PD/conferences within State.

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### **TIMELINE**

December 18, 2019	Application Due
Nov. 18th – Dec. 6th	Question & Answer Period
Friday, January 17, 2020	Award Notifications
January-February 2020	Finalize sub-grant awards with school districts for awards to schools
February-June 2020	Submission of requests for funding or reimbursement of SY 2019-2020 garden expenditures
June 2020	All award funds must be appropriated
September 2020	Final reports due to the Nevada Department of Education

### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

If your non-profit organization meets the eligibility requirements and intends to seek funding to provide professional development services and/or programmatic support to a qualifying Title I school, we encourage you to apply.

Applications for funding for the 2019-2020 school year must be submitted via e-mail to [glamarre@doe.nv.gov](mailto:glamarre@doe.nv.gov) by close of business 12/18/2019. A question and answer period has been outlined where you may submit your questions via e-mail to Gabrielle Lamarre. Please include “School Garden Grant Q and A\_ORGANIZATION NAME” in the subject. Only applications submitted via e-mail by the deadline will be accepted.

### **APPLICATION EVALUATION**

A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications received by the Nevada Department of Education and score the proposals based on a rubric.

During the evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation.

We have included a draft version of the rubric with the application posting so you may align your responses with evaluation criteria. Please be advised that the rubric may change in formatting and score distribution.