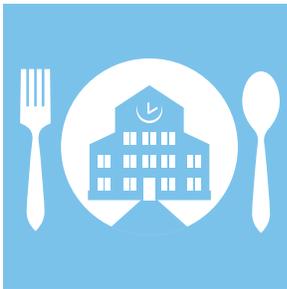


ASK

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR AN ORGANIC PILOT PROGRAM IN THE HEALTHY HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT IN THIS YEAR'S APPROPRIATIONS



BACKGROUND:

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 authorized an organic food pilot program under which school food authorities could explore opportunities to build relationships with local organic companies, farms and food providers to provide healthy and nutritious organic foods to our students, without driving up costs. The pilot program would model best practices in bringing fresh, nutritious, affordable organic foods to our schoolkids within the confines of the existing school food cost structure.

This pilot program was authorized at \$10 million per year, but has never been funded. The time to act is now, in this appropriations cycle, as this bill will be rewritten later this year. Now is the time to deliver on this opportunity.

WHAT'S THE OPPORTUNITY?

Our schoolchildren should have the opportunity to receive healthy, nutritious organic foods in their school meals, when they are available without increasing costs. Funding a pilot program would allow best practices to be identified and create an opportunity for all of our kids to have access to the healthiest lunches.

HOW WOULD THIS WORK?

The purpose of a USDA organic school food pilot grant program would be to assist eligible entities in implementing programs that increase access to organic foods in eligible schools.

On an annual basis, the Food and Nutrition Service at USDA (USDA-FNS) would award competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, developing partnerships, and implementing programs that increase access to organic foods in schools.

Grants could be used to develop and provide support services to initiatives increasing access to organic foods in eligible schools; helps schools or school districts scale or further develop existing initiatives that increase access to organic foods; help schools or school districts that are just getting started on bringing organic to their schoolchildren to organic and structure their efforts for maximum impact by embedding best practices into early design considerations; or to provide technical assistance in the area of procurement, food safety, or other relevant areas.



THERE'S MORE TO **ORGANIC**
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