



Quick Facts

Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education

Who is eligible to apply for this grant?

Public community colleges and universities that offer an agricultural program of study, Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. For purposes of this grant, an "agricultural program of study" is one that offers a series of courses in agriculture, foods, or natural resources that may be transferred to other universities or enables a student to pursue either a minor or major concentration in one of those areas of study. One entity participated in the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) grant program in fiscal year 2022. Total FCAE funding in FY 2022 was \$1.08 million. In FY 2023, three separate FCAE grants will be awarded for a total of \$1.387 million. For more funding information, visit the [Financial Reimbursement Information System \(FRIS\) Inquiry portal](#).

What is the purpose of the FCAE program?

Section 75.400 of the Illinois Administrative Code sets forth the criteria for award of one or more grants to eligible applicants of the FCAE program for the following purposes:

1. Development of a curriculum and strategy for the purpose of establishing a source of trained and qualified individuals in the agricultural industry.
2. A strategy for articulating the state program in agricultural education throughout the public school system.
3. A consumer outreach strategy regarding the importance of agricultural education in Illinois.

What grants are available as a part of FCAE?

Three grants make up the FCAE program. They are:

1. **Local Program Support** grant provides onsite educator assistance, agricultural consumer literacy, teacher recruitment and retention, and other related initiatives.
2. **Work-based Learning** grant provides statewide student and teacher record-keeping services, Supervised Agricultural Experience professional learning and related awards/incentive programs.
3. **Curricular Resource Management** grant maintains existing agricultural education curricular resources, develops new resources, and delivers curriculum-related professional learning opportunities.

When is the deadline for the grant?

The annual established deadline for this grant application may vary; however, each grant year will run from **July 1 to June 30** pending special circumstances. An annual extension may be granted on a case-by-case basis for summer activities and responsibilities. Biannual programmatic reports (**Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [GATA]**) and expenditure reports (**FRIS**) will be required for this grant program and have their own associated timelines.

Where do I complete the grant application?

The grant application is completed in IWAS. The application has **12 parts** that will need to be completed. In the order they appear, they are: Applicant Information, Amendments, Performance Report, Program Specifics, Budget pages, Programmatic Risk Assessment, GATA pages, Assurance pages, Submit, Application History, Page Lock Control, and Application Print. Most required information is provided in the **Performance Report**, **Program Specifics**, and **Budget pages**. For information on how to complete your application, please visit the [Agriculture Grants webpage](#).

Why should my I participate in this grant program?

FCAE is how ISBE supports the **coordination and improvement of agricultural education** programs in Illinois. If we are to continue growing new AFNR programs, improving student experiences, and increasing positive impact on Illinois communities, it is essential that the purposes outlined for the FCAE grant program be fulfilled. Join us in our mission to support agricultural education programs by becoming an FCAE recipient!

How do I sign up to participate in this grant program?

Please reach out to ag_ed@ISBE.net to participate in the FCAE program. Regularly check our [AFNR webpage](#) under the "What's New?" banner to stay up to date on FCAE. Check out the [Agricultural Education Grants](#) page for more.