



Quick Facts

Growing Agricultural Science Teachers (GAST)

Who is eligible to apply for this grant?

Eligible applicants include universities and community colleges that offer agricultural education teacher preparation programs. **Four** public universities and **four** community colleges participated in the grant program in fiscal year 2021. Total GAST funding in FY 2021 was **\$300,000**. For more funding information, visit the [Financial Reimbursement Information System \(FRIS\) Inquiry portal](#).

What is the purpose of this grant?

The purpose of this grant is to recruit, develop, and retain agricultural education teachers. Four main objectives have been identified to fulfill this purpose -- recruitment and retention, development of preservice teachers, professional learning for early career teachers, and professional learning for teacher educators at the identified community college or university.

When is the deadline for the grant?

The annual deadline for this grant application may vary; however, each grant year will run from **July 1 to June 30** pending special circumstances. An extension may be granted on a case-by-case basis for summer activities and responsibilities. Biannual programmatic reports ([to be filed in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act portal](#)) and expenditure reports ([to be filed in the FRIS portal](#)) are required by 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 **11 parts**. In the order they appear, they are Applicant Information, Amendments, Work Plan, Budget Pages, Programmatic Risk Assessment, GATA Pages, Assurance Pages, Submit, Application History, Page Lock Control, and Application Print. The most information is required in the **Work Plan** and **Budget Pages**. For information on how to complete your application, please visit the [Agriculture Grants web page](#).

Why should my college participate in this grant program?

GAST is how we at ISBE support the **growth and improvement of agricultural education** programs in Illinois. If we are to continue starting new AFNR programs, improving student experiences, and increasing positive impact on Illinois communities, the answer is simple — **we need teachers!** Join us in our mission to develop high-quality agricultural science teachers by becoming a GAST recipient.

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

Please reach out to ag_ed@ISBE.net. You can visit the “What’s New?” banner on our AFNR webpage to stay up to date on GAST. For more GAST resources, check out the [Agricultural Education Grants](#) page.