

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4710

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to award grants to eligible entities for farm to school programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BOYD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to award grants to eligible entities for farm to school programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farm to School Im-
5 provements Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

7 (a) AMENDMENT.—The Richard B. Russell National
8 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended
9 by inserting after section 19, the following:

1 **“SEC. 19A. FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-
3 sistance, through competitive matching grants and tech-
4 nical assistance, to eligible entities for farm to school pro-
5 grams that—

6 “(1) improve access to local foods in schools
7 and institutions participating in programs under this
8 Act and section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
9 (42 U.S.C. 1773) through farm to school activities,
10 including the purchase of local food, establishment
11 of effective relationships between school and institu-
12 tional food service providers, distributors, and pro-
13 ducers or groups of producers, school gardens, ap-
14 propriate equipment, and the provision of training
15 and education; and

16 “(2) are designed to—

17 “(A) improve the nutritional health and
18 well being of children;

19 “(B) procure healthy local foods from
20 small and medium-sized farms for meals at eli-
21 gible schools and institutions;

22 “(C) support experiential nutrition edu-
23 cation activities and curriculum planning that
24 incorporates the participation of school children
25 in farm and garden-based agricultural edu-
26 cation activities;

1 “(D) develop a sustained commitment to
2 farm to school programs in the community by
3 linking schools and institutions, State and local
4 agencies including Indian Tribal Organizations,
5 institutions of higher education, agricultural
6 producers, parents, community garden groups
7 and other community stakeholders; and

8 “(E) increase farm income by facilitating
9 farmers’ access to institutional markets includ-
10 ing schools.

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this sec-
12 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

13 “(1) a school;

14 “(2) nonprofit organization; or

15 “(3) other entity that the Secretary determines
16 offers a unique ability to provide services or farm-
17 to-school programs.

18 “(c) GRANTS.—

19 “(1) TYPES OF GRANTS.—A grant awarded
20 under this section may include—

21 “(A) an implementation grant to support
22 the cost of implementing a farm to school pro-
23 gram;

24 “(B) a training and technical assistance
25 grant to support the cost of—

1 “(i) providing the training, oper-
2 ational support, information, and access to
3 resources necessary to implement a suc-
4 cessful farm to school program; and

5 “(ii) encouraging collaboration be-
6 tween public and private entities; or

7 “(C) a planning grant to support the cost
8 of conducting research, identifying resources,
9 and developing partnerships to design a suc-
10 cessful and sustainable farm to school program.

11 “(2) GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant awarded
12 under this section to an eligible entity shall not ex-
13 ceed—

14 “(A) in the case of an implementation or
15 training and technical assistance grant,
16 \$100,000; and

17 “(B) in the case of a planning grant,
18 \$25,000.

19 “(3) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this
20 section shall be awarded for a period—

21 “(A) in the case of an implementation or
22 training and technical assistance grant, not to
23 exceed 2 years; and

24 “(B) in the case of a planning grant, not
25 to exceed 1 year.

1 “(d) COST SHARE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant
3 made under this section shall not exceed 75 percent
4 of the cost of the proposed grant activities.

5 “(2) NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—A recipient of a
6 grant under this section shall be required to provide
7 at least 25 percent of the cost of the proposed grant
8 activities in the form of cash or in-kind contributions
9 (including facilities, equipment, training, or services
10 provided by State and local governments and private
11 sources).

12 “(e) EVALUATION.—A recipient of a grant under this
13 section shall cooperate in an evaluation by the Secretary
14 of the programs carried out using such grant funds.

15 “(f) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making awards and
16 providing technical assistance under this section, the Sec-
17 retary shall to the maximum extent practicable, ensure—

18 “(1) geographical diversity; and

19 “(2) equitable treatment of urban, rural, and
20 tribal communities.

21 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
22 provide recipients of grants under this section with tech-
23 nical assistance, which shall include sharing information,
24 best practices, research, and data on existing farm to
25 school programs.

1 “(h) PROPOSALS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring
3 to receive a grant under this section shall submit a
4 proposal to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
5 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
6 retary may require.

7 “(2) COMPETITIVE AWARD SELECTION.—The
8 Secretary shall form review panels to evaluate pro-
9 posals submitted under paragraph (1) based on the
10 criteria described in paragraph (3). Such review
11 panels shall include—

12 “(A) representatives of schools and eligible
13 institutions;

14 “(B) registered dietitians;

15 “(C) operators of small and medium-sized
16 farms;

17 “(D) public agencies;

18 “(E) non-governmental and community-
19 based organizations with expertise in local food
20 systems and farm to school programs; and

21 “(F) other appropriate parties as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary.

23 “(3) PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA.—In making
24 awards under this section, the Secretary shall evalu-

1 ate proposals based on the extent to which the pro-
2 posed program—

3 “(A) improves the nutritional health and
4 well being of children;

5 “(B) makes local food products available
6 on the menu of the school or institution;

7 “(C) benefits local small and medium-sized
8 farms;

9 “(D) incorporates experiential nutrition
10 education activities and curriculum planning
11 that incorporates the participation of school
12 children in farm and garden-based agricultural
13 education activities;

14 “(E) serves schools and eligible institutions
15 with a high proportion of children who are eligi-
16 ble for free and reduced price lunches;

17 “(F) demonstrates collaboration between
18 schools or institutions, non-governmental and
19 community-based organizations, farmer groups,
20 and other community partners;

21 “(G) demonstrates the potential for long-
22 term program sustainability;

23 “(H) includes adequate and participatory
24 evaluation plans; and

1 “(I) meets such other related criteria as
2 the Secretary may determine relevant.

3 “(i) FUNDING.—Beginning on October 1, 2010, or of
4 any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the
5 Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary
6 of Agriculture to carry out this section \$10,000,000 each
7 fiscal year, to remain available until expended.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Section 18(g) of the
9 Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g))
10 is amended—

11 (1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2); and

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
13 paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

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