

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Agriculture

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Approve the submission of a \$100,000 federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm to School Program to improve access to local foods in schools.

Recommendation: Approve the request to apply.

Analysis: The Department of Agriculture is requesting permission to submit a \$100,000 federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm to School Program to improve access to local foods in schools. The purpose of the USDA Farm to School grant program, similarly to the state Departments of Agriculture and Education program, is to assist schools in sourcing local food products. Oregon was one of only eight states selected to participate in the USDA Pilot for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables. The pilot authorizes schools in selected states to competitively solicit a vendor approved by the USDA using federal funds from the USDA National School Lunch Program. The local schools are then able to use pre-existing commercial distribution channels and relationships with growers, produce wholesalers, and distributors to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students. ODA reports that if the grant is awarded it would be used to support this USDA Pilot for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables.

Grant applications are due May 20, 2015. Grants from the USDA Farm to School program require a 25% non-federal match. The match requirement for this grant proposal would be met primarily from Food Corps and ODA in-kind staff time. No new positions will be created.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request to submit a \$100,000 federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the Pilot for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables.