

As the Program Director of the youth programs of Growing Gardens in Portland, OR, I am submitting testimony to ask you to restore funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program.

Growing Gardens received a \$182,786 grant from this program in 2020 and directly supported thousands of children and their families in the Portland, Reynolds, Centennial and David Douglas school districts. We partner with 12 title 1 schools to provide meaningful education (online and now, in person) connected to healthy food, environmental science and diverse cultural traditions. We also distributed over 4000 at-home garden and cooking kits and 900 lbs of fresh garden produce to school families so far since September 2020. Additionally, with a TA grant from this program, Growing Gardens offers free assistance to schools around the Portland metro area running school garden programs, and we are working with Oregon State University to develop an online School Garden Coordinator Certificate Training program to increase the replicability and sustainability of school gardens.

The Farm to School grants provide funding to schools to purchase local foods and garden-based education throughout the state. Oregon is a nation-wide leader in Farm to School, which can benefit students, schools, small businesses and food producers in our state. Thanks for your support in maintaining this valuable program.

Best regards,
Anna Garwood
Program Director
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