



NC STATE UNIVERSITY



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION NORTH CAROLINA FFA

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Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant SCORING GUIDE

Project Goals

By providing grants to local agricultural education programs/FFA chapters in North Carolina, this project aims to secure a strong workforce for North Carolina's agricultural industry by:

- developing students who are college and career ready through agricultural education,
- providing resources for innovative hands-on teaching of 21st century relevant curriculum,
- improving sustainable program facilities, equipment, and laboratories, and
- engaging students through experiential learning and leadership development.

Project Objectives

- Provide agricultural education improvement grants to local programs: The program will offer - through an application process - at least 12 grants valued up to \$15,000 each to fund transformational projects that will focus on growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture for high school and middle school agricultural education programs across the state.
- Grants will be used to fund innovative, sustainable, and relevant projects that will assist local teachers and students in meeting the current needs of the agriculture industry in our state and in their specific community.
- Encourage the economic stability of participants in the state's agricultural economy: Agricultural education improvement grant recipients will gain resources that will provide hands-on instruction for students using the latest agricultural technologies and resources.
- Recipients must show sustainability in order that funds will have the largest positive impact possible on student success.
- Program visits by state agricultural education staff will allow for evaluations of the program, provide suggestions for improvement, and record overall impact of the project.

Scoring Guidelines

- Four independent reviewers will score all applications.
- A scoring rubric along with this scoring guide will be used to adequately assess each section of each application.
- Once all applications are scored, the scores from each judge for each application will be entered into the scoring summary.
- The application review committee will meet to discuss the applications and compile the results.
- State agricultural education staff will compile the scores from all four reviewers.
- All applications will be ranked and funding levels will be determined for projects.

Application Guide

Below is a guide for completing the application for the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant along with the point values used for scoring.

General Information – 10 points

Information provided should be complete for maximum points.

Project Summary – 5 points

Information provided should be a short, concise summary of the project.

Project Goals and Objectives (no more than 1 page) – 40 points

The goals and objectives of the project should be provided in a bulleted list. The goals and objectives of the project should fall within the goals and objectives of the overall Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant Goals and Objectives listed on the first page of this document.

The overall purpose of the grant is to provide funding for facilities, resources, and programs to improve student learning in agricultural education programs. **It is not intended to be a source of money for consumable supplies/materials or to be used for short-term events.**

Expected Outcomes (no more than 1 page) – 40 points

This section should completely answer the following questions:

- What will the project accomplish and what will be the short/long term impacts of the project?
- What evaluation method(s) will be used to measure these impacts?
- What will be the benchmarks for measuring the project's success?
- If the project is to continue beyond the grant period, describe how the project will continue to be funded and/or self-sustaining.

Project Budget – 25 points

A detailed budget showing line item project expenses and revenues for the entire project should be included. Items paid by grant funds should be fully described and relative to the goals and objectives of the grant.

Intended Beneficiaries – 10 points

A list of individuals, groups, organizations, etc. that will benefit from the project should be included.

Matching Funds Partners (no more than ½ page) – 5 points

- This section should describe and include realistic value estimates of any in-kind contribution such as personnel, services, equipment, etc.
- Are funds identified and verified to support project cost over the grant?
- For each additional funding partner/grant organizations, the following should be provided:
 - Name of the funding organization, contact name, phone number
 - Type of funding (grant, loan, private contribution)
 - Amount and date received and/or current status

Project Timeline – 20 points

A detailed timeline showing when significant events will happen during the project should be included. It should include the period during which the project will operate, when the requested grant funds will be used, as well as major milestones. The timeline should begin after January 1, 2020 and the end of the grant period is December 31, 2020.

Project Impact Table – 20 points

Economic Impact/Benefit Information should be included here that is relevant to the project goals and objectives. Estimated numbers can be used as not all impacts will be realized by all applications.

Recognition (no more than ½ page) – 10 points

A description of how the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission will be recognized as a supporter of this project should be included. Describe how the North Carolina FFA and North Carolina State University will be promoted as well. Examples include website links, news releases, logos on printed materials, etc.

Endorsement Letter – 10 points

A letter of project support written and signed by the school principal on official school letterhead and, for public schools, the Local Education Agency CTE Director on LEA letterhead indicating they will meet all timelines, expectations and financial commitments to complete the project.

Additional Information – 0 points

Any additional information that is relevant to the project proposal may be included in this section. Examples include feasibility studies, photos, site plans/architectural drawings, specifications on needed equipment, etc. Some applications may not have additional material; therefore, there are no points awarded for this section. Information included here should be helpful to the review committee to help them better understand the project.

Verification – 5 points

An authorized official of the school/organization MUST sign the verification statements that will bind the school/organization to the representations made in the grant. The signature of the school principal is preferred.