



DISCOVERING THROUGH HYDROPONICS in the Northwest

Request for Applications: Gro More Good K-2 Hydroponics

Application Deadline: Friday, May 14, 2021

For questions about this opportunity, please contact Jenileigh Harris, Program Associate with the National Farm to School Network, at jenileigh@farmtoschool.org or 719-425-9543

[National Farm to School Network](#) in partnership with [Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation](#) and [KidsGardening](#) is seeking applications for the [second iteration](#) of the Gro More Good Hydroponics Project. *Discovering Through Hydroponics* aims to support K-2 educators in 25 schools across the Northwest in integrating hydroponics gardening into their classrooms. Selected schools will receive the STEM-aligned *Discovering Through Hydroponics* classroom guide, networking and peer learning opportunities with other selected schools and school garden support organizations in northern California, Oregon and Washington, programmatic support from the National Farm to School Network and Gro More Good team and a hydroponics grow kit and supplies.

Project duration

25 selected schools will commit to 10 months of participation spanning August 2021 to May 2022.

Project participants will contribute by:

- Participating in a kickoff call and three peer learning calls with other selected schools
- Integrating the *Discovering Through Hydroponics* lessons into classroom curriculum
- Submitting pre-project, mid-year, and post-project evaluations, including submission of photos and stories documenting hydroponic system use in the classroom
- Sharing project stories and success via social media and/or consent to share stories and successes through National Farm to School Network and Gro More Good social media channels
- Hosting potential on-site visit from program coordinators

Project participants will receive:

- *Discovering Through Hydroponics* classroom guide aligned with K-2 Next Generation Science Standards (see complimentary guide [Exploring Hydroponics](#) for grades 3-5 as an example)
- Hydroponics grow kit, seed pods and nutrients
 - The Aerogarden grow kit (24" x 36" x 14") includes a 24-pod indoor garden and 12 inches of adjustable grow height, 60W LED lighting system, seed pod kits, liquid plant food, power adapter and trellis.
- Networking and peer learning opportunities with other selected schools and school garden support organizations
- Programmatic support from National Farm to School Network and Gro More Good Partners

Eligibility criteria

- Schools, classrooms and School Garden Support Organizations* that:
 - Work with historically under-resourced student population in northern California, Oregon and Washington
 - Work with students in grades K-2 in northern California, Oregon and Washington



- Have interest in and capacity to integrate hydroponics gardening into the classroom, with support from National Farm to School Network and Gro More Good team
- Must be able to participate for the duration of the project timeline (August 2021 to May 2022)
- Encourage school leadership to support the *Discovering Through Hydroponics* project
- Agree to coordinate delivery of hydroponics kit, seed pods and nutrients in June

*School Garden Support Organizations may apply on behalf of and in partnership with schools and teachers they already work with. Partnering classrooms will receive and own the hydroponic growing system with the school garden support organizations providing additional capacity to implement the *Discovering Through Hydroponics* curriculum.

Application Process

- Applications Due: April 30, 2021
- RFP Review until mid-May
- Selected schools announced end of May 2021

Project Implementation Timeline

- April 2021: RFP released
- May 2021: Schools are selected and NFSN provides hydroponic kit, seed pods, and nutrients
- June 2021: Share *Discovering Through Hydroponics* classroom guide with selected schools and launch online collaborative platform
- August 2021-May 2022: Selected schools use *Discovering Through Hydroponics* classroom guide and hydroponic growing kit to increase interest and participation in gardening in their classroom and schools

How to Apply

Apply online: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12zSPzqvTvFrGiGEziM5LKeEOcyITFmhY6ei_MDdPjmY/edit

To prepare, please review school selection priorities on page 3. You may preview the Application Questions on pages 3-4.

Or

Apply by phone: First, please review school selection priorities on page 3 of this application. Call 719-425-9543 and leave a message with answers to the initial application questions directly below:

1. Your name and phone number that is best for returning your call
2. Name of School or School Garden Support Organization
 - a. If a support organization, how many schools do you anticipate you would be working with on this project?
3. What are the anticipated grades that would participate in the project?
4. What is the anticipated number of students participating in the project?
5. Are you working at or with a Title 1 school with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals and/or a high percentage of students of color? (Y/N)



Jenileigh will follow up with you after your message is received to complete the application questions together.

For questions concerning the RFA or application process, please contact Jenileigh Harris, Program Associate with the National Farm to School Network at jenileigh@farmtoschool.org or 719-425-9543

Application

[National Farm to School Network](#) (NFSN) in partnership with [Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation](#) (SMGF) and [KidsGardening](#) is seeking applications for the [second iteration](#) of the Gro More Good Hydroponics Project. *Discovering Through Hydroponics* aims to support K-2 educators in 25 schools across the Northwest in integrating hydroponics gardening into their classrooms. Selected schools will receive the STEM-aligned *Discovering Through Hydroponics* classroom guide, networking and peer learning opportunities with other selected schools and school garden support organizations in northern California, Oregon and Washington, programmatic support from the National Farm to School Network and Gro More Good team and a hydroponics grow kit and supplies.

Priority for school selection will be based on the following:

- Classroom teachers that are:
 - Working at a Title 1 school with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals and/or a high percentage of students of color
- School garden support organizations that are:
 - Led by and serving persons of color
 - Working with Title 1 schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals and/or a high percentage of students of color

Other considerations will include:

- Ability to integrate hydroponics classroom guide across multiple grade levels and across multiple educational settings
- Regional diversity across the Northwest

Application Questions

1. School or School Garden Support Organization Name
2. Mailing address ****You must provide a mailing address where the hydroponics kit and supplies can be delivered in June.***
3. If you are a School Garden Support Organization, please list the names and mailing addresses of the schools* you are applying with or on behalf of. **The schools you apply with/on behalf of cannot change after you've applied once the RFA window closes. If you need to make adjustments to your application, contact Jenileigh Harris at jenileigh@farmtoschool.org or 719-425-9543.*
4. Primary Contact Name
5. Primary Contact Role/Job Title
6. Primary Contact Phone Number
7. Primary Contact Email
8. Phone, Email, Either preference



9. Alternate Contact Name
10. Alternate Contact Role/Job Title
11. Alternate Contact Phone Number
12. Alternate Contact Email
13. Phone, Email, Either preference
14. Anticipated grade levels participating in project
 - a. Kindergarten
 - b. First grade
 - c. Second grade
 - d. Other (please specify)
15. Anticipated educational settings using hydroponic system and classroom guide
 - a. Afterschool
 - b. Special clubs
 - c. Classroom
 - d. Other (please specify)
16. Anticipated number of students participating in the project
17. Please estimate the percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals in your school or schools you work with. *If you are an SGSO applying on behalf of multiple schools, please provide this information for each school.*
18. Please estimate the percentage of children who identify as Hispanic or Latino (ethnicity) in your school or schools work with. Must total 100 percent. *If you are an SGSO applying on behalf of multiple schools, please provide this information for each school.*
 - a. Hispanic or Latino
 - b. Not Hispanic or Latino
19. Please estimate the percentage of children who identify as each race listed below in your school or schools you work with. Must total 100 percent. *If you are an SGSO applying on behalf of multiple schools, please provide this information for each school.*
 - a. American Indian/Alaska Native
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black/African American
 - d. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
 - e. White
 - f. Multiple races
 - g. Other (please specify)
20. Are the anticipated participating schools Title 1?
21. Level of gardening experience of primary contact
 - a. Beginner
 - b. Intermediate
 - c. Expert
22. What is the best time of day to hold a cohort peer learning call?
 - a. Morning (between 8am and 12pm)
 - b. Lunch time (e.g., 12 pm)
 - c. Afternoon (between 1pm and 5pm)
 - d. Evening (after 5pm)



e. Other (please specify)

23. We agree to fulfill the requested project requirements through the duration of the project timeline (August 2021-May 2022).