# SNP Memo #2019-2020-06

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: August 9, 2019

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Farm to School Grants

### School Year 2019-2020 Grants

The Office of Community Food Systems (OFCS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the 2019 Farm to School Grant recipients. For the 2019-2020 school year, OFCS issued 126 grants totaling more than nine million dollars. Congratulations to the two recipients from Virginia; Fairfax County Public Schools and the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation, and Rural Sustainability.

Fairfax County received a $49,997 planning grant to create a comprehensive five-year Farm to School Action Plan that will reach all students and play an integral role in the educational experience of students for years to come. The Action Plan will encompass vision and goals, procurement strategy, distribution and processing, staff training, and will be a collaborative effort between the Fairfax County Office of Food and Nutrition Service, the Fairfax County Public Schools departments, community partners, agricultural producers, and supply chain entities. The program will also feature collaboration between the Office of Nutrition Services and Hollin Meadows Elementary to develop and pilot structures for greater synergy between classroom learning, growing spaces, and the school cafeteria.

Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation, and Rural Sustainability received an implementation grant totaling $86,000. The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability is a non-profit offering a cloud-based e-commerce solution, Lulus Local Food. This e-commerce solution is designed to simplify online sales for farms, farmers markets, and food hubs. Lulus Local Food provides solutions for common procurement, logistical, and sales issues faced by farmers and end-users. Procurement from farms will be simplified for schools, enabling nutrition directors to easily offer local foods to students.

### School Year 2020-2021 Grants

USDA plans to release the Requests for Applications for the Fiscal Year 2020 Farm to School Grants this fall. The additional funding will help reach more communities seeking to incorporate local products into school meals, integrate agricultural education in the classroom, and cultivate and expand farm to school efforts.

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