



## AmeriCorps Farm to School accepting partnership requests for schools, communities

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**Media Contacts: Rick Hummell, 608-224-5041 [richard.hummell@wi.gov](mailto:richard.hummell@wi.gov) or Bill Cosh, Communications Director, 608-224-5020 [William2.Cosh@wi.gov](mailto:William2.Cosh@wi.gov)**

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) currently is accepting requests for partnerships (RFP) for new AmeriCorps Farm to School partner sites for the 2016-2017 grant year.

Wisconsin schools and communities interested in becoming host sites must file their intent to apply by 5 p.m., March 28, 2016. Complete applications are due to DATCP by 5 p.m., April 11, 2016.

“Since 2008, the DATCP-AmeriCorps Farm to School Program has served to strengthen communities, develop connections to schools for local farmers and food businesses, encourage healthy lifestyle choices, and develop future community leaders,” said Dominique Bradley, DATCP’s AmeriCorps Farm to School program manager. “Participating partner host sites gain additional capacity to start or strengthen their farm to school programs through the work of the AmeriCorps Farm to School members.”

The AmeriCorps Farm to School program is a component of DATCP’s statewide Farm to School Program. Approved AmeriCorps Farm to School host sites receive resources to support at least one half-time community outreach member and one half-time nutrition educator.

“The service of AmeriCorps members helps facilitate relationships for local producers and food businesses with schools, promote healthy eating through nutrition and garden education in the classroom, develop school gardens, and build sustainable farm to school coalitions in communities,” added Bradley.

Applications will be considered based on the applicant’s ability to:

- Show community need for AmeriCorps Farm to School activities.
- Provide a reasonable plan to implement Farm to School activities in its community as outlined in the application.
- Provide high-quality support for AmeriCorps members.
- Participate in AmeriCorps Farm to School reporting requirements.
- Provide cash and in-kind matches.

Funding for the AmeriCorps Farm to School Program is provided by Serve Wisconsin through the Corporation for National and Community Service. To learn more about Serve WI go to <http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov>. Through its partnership with DATCP, the AmeriCorps Farm to School program currently works with 16 host sites throughout the state and has served more than 15,000 Wisconsin students.

To learn more about the AmeriCorps Farm to School Program or download the RFP and letter of intent go to [http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy\\_Local\\_Buy\\_Wisconsin/Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Program/](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Farm_to_School_Program/), or contact Dominique Bradley at [Dominique.Bradley@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Dominique.Bradley@Wisconsin.gov); 608-224-5017.

Awards are expected to be announced by May 20, 2016. The member service year will begin August 15, 2016, contingent on funding.