

Horizon and Rising Sun Grant FAQs



The Missouri FFA Foundation has received a few key questions regarding the Horizon and Rising Grants. Below are versions of those questions, along with the applicable answers. If you have additional questions, please email Heather Dimitt-Fletcher at heather@missouriffa.org.ucation

- 1) Does my Board of Education have to approve the application?
 - a. Our grant requirement is for your program Advisory Council to support your project. Your district may require Board of Education approval but that is not a grant requirement.
- 2) Can you give more detail explaining the difference between who can apply for what grants?
 - a. The Horizon Grants are \$10,000-20,000 grants to support updates, improvements or expansion of existing high school agriculture education programming.
 - b. The Rising Sun Grants are \$25,000-50,000 grants to support the launch of new high school agriculture education programs or new to the school agriculture education programming/classes. New high school agriculture education programs are those schools which have been offering DESE approved agriculture education programs for less than three school years. If your school does not meet the “new” definition, your project is only eligible for the Rising Sun program, if it allow you to start teaching a new pathway and/or is creating a business and industry certificate program that goes above and beyond the MOASK certificate.
- 3) Can I apply for both a Horizon and a Rising Sun grant? The rule of only one application per district applies to both grant programs (i.e. you either apply for a Horizon or a Rising Sun). The pool of money is the same for these grants, thus the limitation to only submit one application. *Special note for Summer 2024 funding: If you were notified that you received a grant in March 2024, you can not apply for the Summer 2024 round of funding.*
- 4) What does it mean that the grants are paid via reimbursement? Your local district will be responsible for initially paying for project costs. When you submit your report (due March 31, 2025), you must include a financial report of all income and expenses that includes receipts for expenses. Expenses that were a part of your approved budget for which grant funding was awarded will be reimbursed approximately 4 weeks after your report submission.
- 5) Is there a specific number of grants that will be awarded for each type of program? Since it is the same pool of money, both grant types have a dollar range for requests, and this is the first time we've been able to offer these, we veered away from the idea of having specific numbers for each grant type. In general, our goal is to support as many programs as possible. With that said, we will not pass over one exceptional \$30,000 Rising Sun request to support three mid-level \$10,000 Horizon requests. There is a committee that will review, score, and rank the requests. We will start with the highest ranked proposals and work our way down as the funding (and compatible with the programs' goals) allow.
- 6) Can you provide more of an explanation of local match?
 - a. The goal of local match is to show that there is local buy in and support for the project.
 - b. No money that comes directly from or passes through the State of Missouri to the school district can be used as local match. (This limitation applies to money going to your district. If money passes through the State of Missouri to your local government, a nonprofit, or similar organization and they want to support your project, that can be considered as local match.)
 - c. Local match doesn't necessarily have to be funds from your school district, it's any local money or support covering costs. For instance, if you're outfitting a shop and a local employer wants to make a donation to pay for some of tools or equipment, that is local cash match. If you are remodeling a facility and a local contractor is willing to donate labor, that is local in-kind match.

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Overall, please keep in mind that the grant programs are meant to help prepare the workforce to meet the future needs of the Missouri agriculture industry. It is crucial that your Advisory Council be involved with the project, and it aligns with the Workforce Needs Assessment of Missouri's Food, Agriculture and Forestry Industries.