

2024 Agents for Change Grant Guidelines

What is Agents for Change?

Agents for Change is a joint initiative between the Agent Charitable Fund and the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies (MFBFoC), aimed to support agents' pursuit of building a Do Well by Doing Good business model through participation in school-based charitable giving. This grant awards up to \$2,000 to Michigan schools to support MFBFoC in-school initiatives aimed at alleviating childhood hunger through agricultural education or school-based hunger-relief programming. Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the ACF Grant Fulfillment Committee.

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

- Farm Bureau Insurance (FBI) agents who have been with the company longer than one year, with preference given to agents who are ACF donors. By applying for funding, Farm Bureau agents must agree to the following –
 - Farm Bureau agents can only receive an Agents for Change grant once per calendar year.
 - *If agents want to support multiple schools, they must reach out to Community Engagement Specialist Audrey Carey to determine eligibility before applying.*
 - Farm Bureau agents must provide pre/post program updates to the respective county Farm Bureau assigned to their school district of choice.
 - Farm Bureau agents must commit to a Do Well by Doing Good business model.

Who is eligible to receive funding?

- Michigan public, private or charter schools or school districts who are considered tax exempt by the IRS

What types of programs do you fund?

- New or existing MFBFoC school programming aimed at alleviating childhood hunger through agricultural education.
 - Ex – FARM crates, the FARM Science Lab or Van.
- School-based hunger relief programming
 - Ex – school food pantries, backpack programs, mobile food distributions, school snack programs, after-school meal programs.
 - Pending availability of funds, infrastructure requests may be considered *only if they directly relate to immediate or upcoming food distribution, and the request still includes a food purchasing component (ex – purchasing freezers to increase frozen storage capacity, and then purchasing meat to fill those freezers)*

Agents for Change is unable to fund the following:

- Programs that are based or serve clients outside of Michigan
- Programs that do not alleviate childhood hunger through agricultural education or school-based hunger-relief programming
- Individuals, including scholarships, loans, sponsorships, or endowments.
- Scientific research
- Organizations who limit services to members of one religious group or whose services propagate religious faith or creed.

- Political organizations and those having the primary purpose of influencing legislation or promoting an ideological view.

How do I apply?

1. **Agents for Change applications must be initiated and completed by a Farm Bureau Insurance agent.** Preference is given to agents who have donated to the ACF in the current calendar year. Prior to starting an application, agents must complete the following steps –
 - a. Review the **Agents for Change Activation Guide** and gather school contact information, demographics, a current W-9, MFBFoC programming history, and ongoing hunger-relief program details.
 - b. If pursuing agricultural education programming through MFBFoC, agents must review the **MFBFoC Agricultural Education Program Guide** on available offerings.
 - c. Contact the County Administrative Manager (CAM) associated with the school district to arrange time to provide the county Farm Bureau with an update on the chosen school and type of program support to be provided.
2. Once the above pieces are complete, the FBI agent will visit www.endhungerinmichigan.org/grants to initiate and complete the application.
 - a. *Grants may be awarded based on the following criteria, including but not limited to – clarity of program/project purpose, agent involvement and plans for ongoing support, budget and timeline of program/project execution, community demographics, innovative programs, or new initiatives.*

What is the evaluation process?

Grants shall be evaluated and awarded six times a year by a committee of ACF donors based on the schedule below. Please note that the completion of an application does not guarantee that the application will be selected for a grant. If an application is not selected, the Grant Fulfillment Committee will provide appropriate feedback to the agent and invite them to rewrite and resubmit their request.

A school may not receive more than one Agents for Change grant per year. The 2024 grant application will open in early January. All grant applications must be completed at www.endhungerinmichigan.org/grants.

Round	Submission Deadline	Award Notification
1	Friday, February 2, 2024	Friday, February 16, 2024
2	Friday, April 5, 2024	Friday, April 19, 2024
3	Friday, June 7, 2024	Friday, June 21, 2024
4	Friday, August 2, 2024	Friday, August 16, 2024
5	Friday, October 4, 2024	Friday, October 18, 2024
6	Friday, November 15, 2024	Friday, December 6, 2024

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Agents for Change grant?

Please contact ACF Manager Persis Sopariwala at psopari@michfb.com.