$650,000 is available for child care facilities

How would you like to...

• Improve breastfeeding support
• Improve education
• Train staff on best practices and new policies
• Conduct taste tests and cooking demonstrations
• Purchase nutrition lesson plans and activities
• Take field trips to local farms and farmers markets
• Provide an updated and comfortable lactation room
• Purchase materials to plant a garden
• Send staff to nutrition training
• Purchase updated technology to network and stay informed

APPLY FOR A CACFP WELLNESS GRANT

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The Farm to Child Care (FTC) grant will establish a connection between local farmers, local produce, and children in early child care settings.

With an FTC grant you establish a direct purchasing relationship with a local produce grower to integrate more fresh fruits and vegetables into meals and snacks.

You may use FTC funds to create a sustainable program in a variety of ways:

- staff training
- improve nutrition education
- program promotional materials
- equipment to store and prepare healthy foods
- field trips to local farms and urban gardens
- materials to grow a vegetable garden
- books, lesson plans and activity sheets
- fruits and vegetables for taste tests
- materials for cooking demonstrations
- information for parents on local food sources

The Breastfeeding Supportive Childcare Practices (BSC) grant increases support for breastfeeding mothers through enhancing childcare practices and policies.

You may use BSC funds in a variety of ways to create a culturally appropriate and breastfeeding friendly environment:

- private accommodations to express milk
- refrigerated storage for breast milk
- training on storage and handling of breast milk
- infant care plans with staff and family
- staff training on bottle feeding breastfed babies
- informational handouts and breastfeeding signage
- resources for best practices and policy information
- equipment to support nursing mothers and breastfed babies

The Healthy Child Care Network (HCN) is a way to stay informed, access training and connect to other CACFP providers.

As a FTC or BSC grant recipient, a portion of your funds may be used to purchase or upgrade software, hardware, Internet capabilities or other technologies necessary to help you connect with other CACFP providers and stay informed.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**APPLICATION**

Grant applications will be available under grants/funding at TexasAgriculture.gov starting February 2012.

**QUESTIONS**

Visit SquareMeals.org for:

- Technical assistance and training
- Rules and processes to apply
- Frequently asked questions
- Teleconference on applying and for questions
- E-newsletter and additional resources

**CONTACT**

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Independant child care centers and sponsors of centers and day care homes that hold a current contract with TDA in the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are eligible to apply for the wellness grants.