

# School waste reduction and recycling grants

Hennepin County provides grants for preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions to start or improve programs to divert recycling and organic materials, which includes food and non-recyclable paper, from the trash. Grant funding can also be used to take steps to reduce waste in the first place.



<b>Eligible recipients</b>	Preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions in Hennepin County
<b>Eligible expenses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bins, barrels, carts and sorting stations</li> <li>• Reusable foodware to replace disposables</li> <li>• Sharing table supplies</li> <li>• Bulk condiment dispensers to replace single-use options</li> <li>• Reimbursement for monitors to oversee separation of organics, recycling, and trash</li> <li>• Stipends for staff to implement and lead the grant project</li> </ul>
<b>Application timeline</b>	<p>The following organizations may apply for the first round of grants: Head Start, two-year colleges, and preschools and K-12 schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Applications for this round are due Thursday, February 27.</p> <p>Applications from any K-12 school, preschool, college, or university in the county will be accepted from March 18 through October 15 or until available funds are depleted.</p>
<b>Amount of funding available</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum award is \$1,000.</li> <li>• The maximum award is \$20,000 for qualifying applications who apply by the February 27 deadline.</li> <li>• The maximum award is \$15,000 for applications submitted March 18 or later.</li> <li>• \$150,000 is available annually.</li> </ul>
<b>Project timeline</b>	Projects must be completed in 2 years.
<b>Reporting requirements</b>	Midterm and final report with progress of project.
<b>Examples of projects</b>	<p>Priority is given to the following types of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste prevention or donation</li> <li>• Replacing single-use and disposable items with bulk and reusable items</li> <li>• Collection of recyclables in areas outside of the school building and at special events.</li> </ul>



## Contact us today

If you are considering applying for a grant, contact us to:

- Discuss your project and its appropriateness for this funding source.
- Get information and tips about the application process.
- Evaluate potential costs and savings.
- Learn about resources to start or improve recycling and organics programs.

## For more information

- Visit [hennepin.us/schoolrecycling](http://hennepin.us/schoolrecycling)
- Contact the school recycling program coordinator at [schoolrecycling@hennepin.us](mailto:schoolrecycling@hennepin.us)

