

**National FFA Foundation
And Illinois FCAE-Local Program Support
2024 FFA Chapter Exchange Project - Request For Proposals**



Background:

During the 2002 IAA Foundation Bike Ride Fundraiser for the Illinois AITC Program through the Chicago Metro Area a unique connection was made between Carol Williams, Agriculture Academy Instructor at John Marshall High School, and the agriculture community. Many people didn't realize how agriculture is taught in the city. Following this introduction, a minimal grant was made to Marshall High School FFA from Illinois Farm Bureau to visit a downstate ag program.

In conjunction with the 2003 Horticultural CDE held at the University of Illinois, Marshall students traveled to Champaign to tour agribusiness and educational opportunities offered at the University of Illinois and Parkland College. Additionally, the students toured and interacted with FFA members from Shiloh (Hume) High School. During this tour, Marshall students experienced production agriculture firsthand. In December of 2003, Shiloh FFA representatives visited Marshall High School. For several of the students from this rural community, it was their first time in the city and they experienced how agriculture is taught in the city of Chicago.

This program continued for several years until funding was no longer available. Based on requests during Illinois FFA State Convention Cultivating Conversations Room interactions, the Chapter Exchange Grant Program has been funded again through a generous grant from ADM and the National FFA Foundation.

Request for Proposals:

The National FFA Foundation, through a special grant provided by ADM, is partnering with FCAE-Local Program Support to allocate funds for exchanges between Illinois FFA Chapters from urban/suburban areas with Illinois FFA chapters from rural areas. The purpose of this project is to provide opportunities for FFA members to learn about the similarities and differences that exist among urban and rural agricultural departments and schools.

Grants up to \$1,000 will be awarded by the National FFA Foundation to fund the exchanges for chapters to experience a 2-school day/1-night exchange trip. Chapters must identify an exchange partner in-state at the time of applying for the grant. Each participating chapter is encouraged to submit an application for their planned exchanges (this is expected to be a 2-way exchange). Dates for exchanges are due at the time of application.

Approvable expenses include hotel (non-incident), mileage, vehicle rental, other transportation, tours, shared chapter activities, meals, and substitute teacher expenses (if needed/maximum of 2 days). Funds will be reimbursed to chapters upon submission of receipts/evidence.

The National FFA Foundation, with advice from FCAE-LPS Staff, reserves the right to reject any proposal received (or request revision) if it is determined that the proposal does not meet the selection criteria of the request for funds, or if funds should be limited for any reason.

Timeline:

- Completed Narrative/Objectives and Budget with signatures must be sent as a PDF attachment to Luke Allen, FCAE Program Advisor, at LAllen@ILAgEd.org by **September 27, 2024**. Proposals that meet requirements will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds are awarded. It is anticipated that 30 chapter exchanges will be supported through this grant program.
- Eligible applications will be shared with the National FFA Foundation. Notification emails will be sent to school administrators and teachers the first week of October.
- Visits must be completed by **December 13, 2024**.
- Final reports must be submitted to Luke Allen at LAllen@ILAgEd.org by **December 20, 2024**. It should include:
 - Reflections of the teachers, students, and administrators
 - Actual budget/expenditures, (including receipts) for reimbursement
 - Copy of press release sent to local media and/or proof of social media post for each participating school
 - 3-5 photos from the exchange

Questions can be addressed to Luke Allen at 815-530-2065 or by emailing lallen@ilaged.org.

2024 FFA Chapter Exchange Program Application

Contact Information

FFA Chapter:

Chapter ID #: IL

FFA Advisor/Contact:

Contact Email Address:

Contact Cell Phone:

Administrator Name:

Administrator Email:

FFA Chapter You Will Be Visiting:

Date of Planned Chapter Exchange:

Narrative & Objectives

Instructions: Please attach a statement indicating why your FFA chapter should be selected for the 2024 FFA Chapter Exchange Project and the outcomes you hope to attain from the project. Do not exceed 1 page single-spaced typewritten page with font no smaller than 11 pt. Times New Roman, Courier, or Century fonts are preferred. Please identify the school you plan to partner with in your narrative.

Budget

Please attach a budget in your application. Approvable expenses include hotel fees (non-incidentals for one night), auto mileage (state rate of \$0.67/mile), vehicle rental, other transportation, tours, shared chapter activities, meals, and substitute teacher expenses (if needed/maximum of 2 days). Funds will be reimbursed to chapters upon submission of receipts/evidence. Budget shall be submitted on a separate attachment.

Total Funds Requested (not to exceed \$1,000): \$ _____

Administrator Approval and Acceptance

I understand that the FFA chapter in my school is planning to participate in the 2024 FFA Chapter Exchange Program. Our district supports this project and we are prepared to help the FFA chapter make this a positive learning experience for our students. Our district has agreed to host students from the partnering school through this exchange experience. We understand that the National FFA Foundation, through a special grant provided by ADM, will be reimbursing us for expenses after receipts are submitted with the final report.

Administrator Name

Title

Date