

Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship - Cohort 2, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated September 5, 2023

Q. When exactly do the program components (i.e., virtual live learning sessions, experiential learning trips, etc) take place, and does the program continue over the summer?

A. The program schedule is subject to change, but the general outline is as follows:

- Virtual live learning sessions on Zoom every Tuesday from 3 6 pm PT/6 9 pm ET
 - o Intermittent breaks for holiday weeks throughout the year
 - School opening break in August
 - Replaced with project work time in November and December
- School district site visits in the spring and fall (four days each, including travel time)
- Two additional three- to four-day trips, tentatively scheduled for February and late June
- In-person capstone presentations and closing celebration in late January 2025

The finalized schedule will be shared with selected applicants in November so that they can confirm their availability prior to accepting their place in the program.

Q. What is the approximate weekly time commitment?

A. Fellows can expect to spend about eight hours per week on the Fellowship. The three-hour virtual live learning sessions are included in those eight hours. While how those eight hours are spent will

The Chef Ann Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting whole-ingredient, scratch cooking in schools. Scratch cooking enables schools to serve the healthiest, tastiest meals so that kids are well-nourished and ready to learn. To date, we've reached more than 13,500 schools and 3.3 million kids with healthy school programming.



vary from week to week, one example of a typical week would be one hour of pre-work, three hours in the live learning session, one hour of homework, and two to three hours of asynchronous learning (i.e., School Food Institute coursework) or project work. Weeks that include travel will exceed the usual eight hours.

Q. Is there a cost involved, and if so, what is the cost?

A. There is no cost to Fellows or their districts to participate in the Fellowship. All expenses for program-related travel (i.e., flights, rental cars, lodging, meals, etc) are covered.

Q. How many Fellowships will be awarded for cohort 2?

A. We anticipate selecting 24 Fellows, with 12 from the state of California and 12 from the rest of the U.S.

Q. I work at a charter school. Would I be eligible to apply?

A. The baseline eligibility criteria is working at a school food service/nutrition department that is operating under the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Q. Would the Fellowship be appropriate for someone who is already a district school food service/nutrition director but wants to convert their program to scratch cooking? What about someone who is a manager or similar position from a district that is already doing a lot of scratch cooking?

A. We will consider individuals who are already directors at smaller districts or who need additional knowledge, skills, and experience to transition their program to scratch cooking. Similarly, we will consider up-and-coming leaders at districts that are far along the scratch cooking continuum. We anticipate selecting a cohort of Fellows from districts that are diverse in terms of size and current level of scratch cooking. The key factors are self-operated programs (as opposed to operated by a food service management company) and a desire to improve the quality of school meals through scratch cooking.



Q. Are Fellows free to pick their own capstone projects, and are there specific guidelines for that project?

A. During the first half of the Fellowship, the capstone project goals, guidelines, and expectations will be covered in depth. At a high level, Fellows are free to select their own topic as long as it fits the project timeline and budget, strengthens scratch cooking in their district and advances their leadership skills. The project must be approved by the Chef Ann Foundation and the Fellow's supervisor before the capstone stipend (\$5,000) will be disbursed to the Fellow's district.