



BIG GREEN

JUMPSTART PROGRAM SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

In September of 2021 as teachers and students were getting ready to head back to school for the 2021/2022 school year, Big Green announced Jumpstart – an all-new program that would rapidly deploy \$2,000 grants to schools across America in an effort to accelerate outdoor learning. The program was created to help schools stay open so that teachers and students could continue in-person learning amid the resurgence of COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

Jumpstart has continued into 2023 as an opportunity to provide schools with crucial funding to support their existing school garden programs or to create them where they don't already exist.

Educators are encouraged to apply through an easy application process and then participate in a series of webinars and online modules to provide resources and inspiration to bring their classrooms outside, into the open air.

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

In order to participate schools have to meet the following criteria:

- At or above a 65% free and reduced lunch status
- Have a plan to expand growing food at school and outdoor learning that could be immediately implemented with the granted funds

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To become eligible to receive Big Green funding teachers/schools have to:

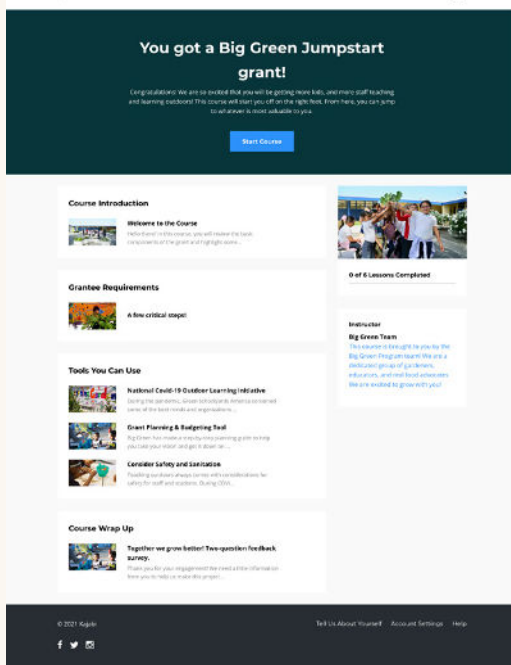
- Provide a summary of how funds would be used to enhance outdoor education
- Complete two of Big Green's Jumpstart online courses

JUMPSTART EDUCATORS



Our garden serves as both a learning and play area, that connects children to themselves, to each other, and to the natural world and that builds awareness of topics like environmental and food justice.

– Jumpstart Grantee



EDUCATOR RESOURCES

Big Green program experts and partner organizations like Green Schoolyards America have contributed a variety of outdoor education resources and tools that are available to all grantees through our Learning Management System. Grantees are required to complete one orientation course and at least one other grant module to set educators up for successful planning and implementation of outdoor learning. Each course includes downloadable tools, videos, and links to additional partner resources such as the National Outdoor Learning Library, created by the National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative.



An ecosystem becomes something real in a garden instead of a strange word.

– Jumpstart Grantee

OUR PARTNERS

PARTNERS

Thanks to the support of incredible organizations like the Children and Nature Network, Green Schoolyards America, Life Lab, and the School Garden Support Organization Network, Big Green is able to get the word out and cultivate a strong set of school garden education online professional development materials.

Children & Nature Network



The benefits of school gardening encompass a wide variety of skills that children need to be successful in the future. Whether the focus is on increasing knowledge or emotional capacity, many life lessons can be learned in the garden... School gardens provide a unique opportunity to improve students' ability to collaborate and problem solve thereby increasing their social emotional capacity. As students explore and observe, they engage in rich discussions and learn from each other.

–Jumpstart Grantee

SAMPLE APPLICATION

SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL, Santa Fe, New Mexico

All of the students at the Santa Fe Indian School have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many have lost loved ones and many of their tribal communities have been closed since early 2020. SFIS has been working to provide outside learning spaces, and the grant would be used to help us provide an improved outside learning experience with storage for garden and science class materials. Currently we have tables, chairs and tents but no dedicated outdoor learning supplies, equipment or storage.

The funds will be used to purchase supplies needed such as: rolling carts, buckets and towards purchasing an outdoor shed or the purchase of materials needed to build a shed to store our tools and equipment. The dedicated outdoor learning supplies and storage will mean the students will be able to transport, store and access the garden tools and other supplies to assist in their learning.

This means when students are planting, learning and harvesting everyone will be able to quickly get their supplies and settle in the outdoor space and if we have to transport materials from the classroom they will be able to use carts so they can bring and return those materials themselves. This will also make their time with the Gardens special and we will be able to emphasize how important the outdoor science and garden time will be.

We currently have seventh and eighth grade science students in our program that are utilizing the outdoor garden spaces, and other instructors and staff access the space when available. We hope to add more garden spaces for the high school students this year.

Students Outdoors:

250

Hours Outside per Week:

2

Learning Garden School:

No

Anticipated # of Students Outdoors with Grant:

350

Anticipated # Hours Outdoors with Grant:

50

Free & Reduce Lunch %:

100%

Photo Submitted:

