



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

# Affiliation Fee Program

## Possible Funding Options

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*Below are several options for funding the affiliation fee program for all students enrolled in the agricultural education program at the local level. The program is designed for students to experience all aspects of the FFA leadership education component of the three-circle model. This fee will allow every student in every classroom every day the option to participate in all events, award opportunities, degrees and scholarships the same as dues-paying FFA members. The difference in the affiliation fee program is that students are not asked to pay FFA dues.*

### ***Some of the benefits to enrolling in the affiliation fee program include:***

- Teachers/Advisors do not need to spend valuable class time collecting dues, writing receipts and handling money. One fee covers all enrolled students.
- All enrolled agricultural education students will gain access to the career planning tools, supervised agricultural experience tools and other resources provided as part of My FFA on FFA.org
- Every student has access to FFA programs and activities as long as they are in good standing with the advisor and school policies.
- Students who may not see the value of FFA when they enter the program can gain information that will later show them what they have access to as an FFA member. (Rather than encouraging students to join the first few days of class, teachers have the ability to mentor and guide students toward premier leadership, personal growth and career success as the year progresses.)
- FFA is then truly integral to the program and can no longer be looked at as a club. It is for every student in every class every day and serves as the leadership education component to the three-circle model for agricultural education.
- Automatically makes the program exemplary in Standard 3: Leadership Development, Quality Indicator #1 and #3 of the National Quality Program Standards for Agricultural Education, approved by the National Council of Agricultural Education. Current NQPS can be found on The Council's Website, <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil/resources/program-standards-tool>

*Even with the benefits listed above, there may be teachers or school officials wanting to understand how these funds can be provided or acquired. The following promising practices are ideas local programs have used to meet their needs. Knowing everyone's needs are different and sometimes unique, you may find one of these useful or develop a new idea that will work well for you. If you use a different idea, please share it with your LPS specialist or email your promising practices to Jim Armbruster, [jarmbruster@ffa.org](mailto:jarmbruster@ffa.org), so we can share them with others.*

## EXAMPLES

### ***The local school district sees the value it provides to the program and students.***

The school district covers the cost just as they would for an athletic or school activities affiliation or required participation association. Being for all students in the program, they see the value in leadership education and the integral nature of it being a part of the total program. In this model, teachers must be able to show school officials the three-circle model and provide an understanding of why your program needs to include this component for all students. The teacher's ability to communicate the need and show the results will determine the support by the administration and the local advisory council.

### ***The local alumni chapter provides the support for all students to experience FFA.***

There are many local alumni chapters that would see this as a huge opportunity to support their local agricultural education program and the students. Their ability to provide this support will ensure all students are ready to be mentored and provided opportunities they may not have had if left up to the student to pay dues. Donations, supporting fundraisers and funding drives are all alumni functions that can support the local programs and help make sure the affiliation fee is covered so students and teachers can concentrate on leadership education and engagement of students to become successful with premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

### ***Included in a local chapter's annual Program of Activities (POA) are various activities meant to engage local stakeholders. These could lead to additional funding, which will ultimately support all students in the program by paying the affiliation program fee.***

Your ability to provide opportunities for every student and engage them in activities will develop students and meet the goals of your program. The NQCS and POA emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Ultimately, each standard includes personal and group activities that improve life skills and address quality standards in leadership activities that help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to enhance personal success. Healthy lifestyles, supervised agricultural experiences, scholarships and agricultural career skills are also programs designed to enhance student development. Whether it is through the personal growth, economic development, stakeholder engagement or agricultural advocacy standards, chapter members can engage community partners with hopes of raising funds. If a chapter's POA meets all the National Quality standards, they have the ability to apply for recognition through the National Chapter Award program. This program can lead to potential recognition from a chapter's state and, ultimately, National FFA.

### ***Local sponsor support provides resources to ensure every student in the agricultural education program has the opportunity to experience the total program, which includes leadership education and FFA.***

There are always local and regional supporters looking for ways to provide dollars that will impact students in the community. With the heritage agricultural education and FFA have provided many supporters over the years, those who have experienced the program themselves understand the positive impact their contribution can make to students learning premier leadership, personal growth and career success. With sponsors understanding the need provided by a volunteer or advisory council member, you may receive the resources supporting every student in the program.

### ***Educational grants are also a possible option.***

There are chapters that have applied for and received grants to support leadership education from a variety of sources. The local teacher may need to search them out from local resources and industry. One example was state Fish and Game Fines being turned back for educational use. Some states set these up to be used in the county they were collected. These are usually simple grant applications that ask how you will use the funds to benefit students. Walmart has a local program at their stores called a general manager's grant for up to \$1,500; this might qualify for affiliation fees, especially if the local program plans a chapter community service effort. You would want to write the request to show impact on the community. These are examples; depending on where you are, there may be additional opportunities for funding. This is another way your advisory council and alumni can assist you in providing valuable information.

### ***Civic organizations have funding available for leadership-based youth organizations.***

The local Optimists Club is a good example. They are all about youth and youth opportunities and may be looking to adopt a youth group like FFA. A progressive chamber of commerce or community board may provide grants to a chapter that is benefitting the community by doing projects. The donation they provide may be to support the program by ensuring all agricultural education students are able to be part of the program, addressing service-learning as a form of leadership education. Other local and regional civic organizations to consider and work with to secure necessary funding for the affiliation program include: Grange, Rotary Clubs, Ruritan, County Farm Bureau, Lions, Jaycees...