

# USDA Farm to School FY 2014 Grant Awards

*The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 authorized and funded USDA to establish a Farm to School Program in order to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. USDA is pleased announce fiscal year 2014 grantees. (The descriptions below were adapted from grant applications. In some cases they have been edited by USDA staff.)*

## ALABAMA

### **Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries**

*Montgomery, AL*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will partner with the North Alabama Food Bank, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Department of Education, and local schools to increase local sales of commodities to be used in school cafeterias. The Alabama Department of Agriculture will implement activities based upon twelve years of experience with the farm to school program that will create a network of farmers who are capable of providing large quantities of locally produced fruits and vegetables to interested schools. These activities will include training for school nutrition workers on handling local produce, GAP training for farmers, and outreach and promotion to the agriculture community and food and nutrition directors about the benefits of the farm to school program.

## ALASKA

### **Alaska Gateway School District**

*Tok, AK*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,999*

The Alaska Gateway School District "Gateway Farm to School Project" will develop an implementation plan that will allow the district to source at least 20% of the food served in the school meal programs regionally. The project will allow for the exploration and analysis of regional food sources and develop supply chains utilizing those sources. Once this planning process is complete, we will greatly reduce the amount of food that must be imported to Alaska from thousands of miles away from the lower 48 states, thereby providing children with food that is both fresher and more cost effective. The district recently received state funding for a greenhouse and garden project. This planning grant will allow us to enhance the existing greenhouse and garden project to increase on-site local food production. We will work with an agricultural consultant to develop a crop selection and rotation plan designed to maximize

quality and quantity of food production during the short Alaska growing season. Training and facility development centered on food storage and preservation will allow summer and fall harvests to be utilized year-round by the district. The District will develop and begin implementation of a multi-level agriculture and nutrition curriculum that will provide students with the skills needed to become lifelong regional eaters.

## ARIZONA

### **Prescott Unified School District**

*Prescott, AZ*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,058*

The Prescott Unified School District will be the fiscal agent for the grant and Humboldt Unified, Chino Valley Unified, and Mayer Unified Districts (together know as the "Quad-City" area) will work as collaborative partners to impact 24 schools in four school districts, located in Yavapai County, Arizona. The total free and reduced lunch count for the Quad-City is 54.5%. A very active farm to school advisory committee is in place, including partners who have resources within the community to assist in moving efforts forward. This committee has been in place and actively meeting since spring of 2012. Initial beneficial relationships have been forged with commitments from four local school districts and fifteen community-based organizations. These resources make it an opportune time to move the farm to school effort forward. Local farms and food sources are viable assets and resources that will be explored during this planning process to determine future procurement and nutritional education opportunities for the children and adults in the Quad-City area.

### **The Star School**

*Flagstaff, AZ*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,338*

The "Food for Navajo Schools Project" will create a comprehensive farm to school implementation plan to provide a culturally relevant model for the 224 schools in the Navajo Nation. This plan will identify local or regional product availability and take steps required to integrate local and regional products, including produce from school gardens, into school meals.

## ARKANSAS

### **Mansfield School District 76**

*Mansfield, AR*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$32,721*

The Mansfield School District serves 880 students on three campuses. The District is committed to the overall health and wellbeing of our students and seeks to establish a farm to school program that will complement other district initiatives. This planning grant will allow the district to form partnerships with local farmers and producers in order to increase procurement of locally sourced foods for the nutrition program. The District will also educate students, parents, and stakeholders about the farm to table connections and the importance of consuming fresh foods. The overall objectives of the program are to increase the availability of locally sourced foods to students, provide nutritionally based educational opportunities, and to design a farm to school implementation plan that aligns with district, state, and national guidelines.

## CALIFORNIA

### **Live Healthy**

*Grass Valley, CA*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$96,000*

Live Healthy is an organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and connecting western Nevada County's families to fresh, local, seasonal foods. Our farm to cafeteria project includes two main programs: the expansion of our existing farm to school program from 11 to 15 schools and the establishment of an educational farm that will provide quality hands-on farm and kitchen based education while using sustainable practices to grow delicious food for school meals. The farm to school program includes a local produce stand at each school, a "Harvest of the Month" program, farm field trips, school garden consultations, and guest appearances by farmers, nutrition educators, and chefs. The educational farm will engage students in cultivating, tending, and selling vibrant, nutritious foods to schools. The two-acre farm will also serve as an outdoor classroom to teach science, math, literacy, and social skills through gardening and culinary activities. This outdoor classroom will build on each student's knowledge base from year to year, culminating in a generation fully equipped to envision and create an equitable, local, sustainable food system from seed to plate.

## **Modesto City Schools**

*Modesto, CA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$90,751*

Modesto City Schools will implement a district-wide farm to school program aimed at increasing the quantity and variety of local and regional food items in school meals. We will also improve and expand our processing capabilities at the nutrition services in order to increase the capacity to for local food processing. We will conduct promotional activities and taste tests and samplings for students, and will work with nutrition staff on new recipe developments. We will expand experiential and agriculture-based learning opportunities for students by creating a school garden or orchard program at four new school sites.

## **Oakland Unified School District**

*Oakland, CA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

Oakland Unified School District will develop and implement an innovative new lunch program called "California Thursdays." Through this program, we intend to increase the amount of California-grown and processed products consumed by students and increase students' awareness of the origin and agricultural character of the food items on their plates. California Thursdays will expand the district's local purchasing to include proteins and grains, as well as enhance current local produce purchasing from farms less than 500 acres.

## **Pasadena Unified School District**

*Pasadena, CA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,486*

Pasadena Unified School District will implement a farm to school program to benefit 18,965 students in a mid-size urban school district in Los Angeles County, California. Nearly 69% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, less than 30% meet the state's Physical Fitness Test minimum requirements, and over 20% are obese. While there is a growing interest in urban agriculture and locally grown organic food within the greater Pasadena area, many of these resources are not broadly reaching the low-income children and families served by its public schools. This grant will help us broaden this reach by convening stakeholders who will develop an implementation plan for increasing the accessibility, availability, quality, and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables for our students and community. Key activities include establishing policies and practices that support procurement of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, providing training for food services staff to increase scratch cooking and use of local produce, developing farm to school curriculum, and conducting outreach and education efforts aimed at students, parents, and families.

## **Pittsburg Unified School District**

*Pittsburg, CA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

Pittsburg Unified School District will implement a comprehensive farm to school program to serve all its students in grades K-12. We will: increase student and parent knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating options; increase the percent of healthy, locally sourced foods (particularly fresh fruits and vegetables) procured for all school meal programs; decrease the negative health outcomes among students from poor nutrition and unhealthy food choices; develop and institutionalize a sustainable infrastructure that will enable Pittsburg Unified School District, in conjunction with other Contra Costa County school districts, to increase local produce purchasing power for the schools and increase market opportunities for local growers, processors, and distributors; and positively impact the economic viability of local communities.

## **Sweetwater Union High School District**

*Chula Vista, CA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,935*

Sweetwater Union High School serves over 41,000 students in grades 7-12 across four cities in San Diego County. Over 90% of students represent an ethnic minority, and over 55% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch programs. With other one-third of students overweight or obese, we are in severe need of improving our school nutrition programs. Much work has already begun to incorporate local products in our breakfast and lunch menus, and to teach students where their food comes from. We have conducted significant community outreach and have partnered with several local farms to begin farm to school activities in our District. The response from students and administration officials has been very supportive of our efforts thus far. We are well poised to connect the existing efforts of several schools and to provide resources for further expansion throughout the district.

# **COLORADO**

## **Boulder Valley School District**

*Boulder, CO*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,477*

Boulder Valley School District will undertake an intensive marketing and education program aimed at a 20% increase in consumption of locally-sourced natural foods, particularly fruits and vegetables, in our school meals. We aim to increase local purchasing to 46% of the annual food service budget. In order to achieve this within a sustainable model, we must increase the total number of children eating the school lunch menu regularly, and improve student acceptance and consumption of locally sourced foods as part of these meals. Marketing and

education will involve all schools in the district for two weeks per year, called "Colorado Proud Weeks," and focus on ten high-poverty elementary and middle schools year-round. These schools serve over 4,000 children ages 3-14, of whom 47% live in poverty households. Activities will include: field trips, farmer visits, tastings, student chef competitions, posters, cooking lessons, garden plantings and harvests, and classroom lessons closely aligned with science and health curriculum. The District will create "how to" manuals on garden to school and farm to school, for extended use by teachers, volunteers, and staff. Partners include local farms, dairies and ranches, grocery stores, farmer's markets, restaurants, school gardens, a local foundation, the Colorado State University Extension, and district curriculum departments.

### **Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment**

*Denver, CO*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$98,880*

This project proposes to expand the dissemination of an existing farm to school evaluation toolkit and training, already developed, piloted, and refined by the Colorado Farm to School Task Force. Regardless of size, farm to school programs benefit from conducting evaluations of their efforts. The primary focus of the project will be to build capacity in schools and school districts to undertake evaluation related to their farm to school efforts. To accomplish this goal, the toolkit will be disseminated through webinars and in-person trainings at existing national or regional events. Additional technical assistance will be provided to up to 25 school districts to use the toolkit. This project is ready to hit the ground running. The toolkit and training already exist and have been tested. Our program can make a meaningful difference for school districts throughout the country as they seek to expand, improve, and sustain their farm to school efforts.

### **Durango School District 9-R**

*Durango, CO*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,998*

This project will take an existing space within the Durango School District and repurpose it into an aggregation center that will service the Durango School District and four surrounding districts. It will allow access to more nutritious, locally grown foods in meals, allow for larger purchases of local foods, and allow for greater control in inventory, food safety, and traceback. Most importantly, this project will provide the infrastructure necessary to continue to expand the farm to school programming in the southwest.

## CONNECTICUT

### **Ledge Light Health District**

*New London, CT*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

Ledge Light Health District, FRESH New London, and community partners will implement the "Farm Fresh New London County Schools" to increase the consumption of locally grown fresh food in the twenty school districts in New London County, Connecticut. By building the capacity of the 75 farmers in the county to participate in farm to school programming, and by connecting farmers and school food service directors, Ledge Light Health District and partners will support farms and schools in overcoming existing barriers. The parties will work together to develop an electronic purchasing portal to facilitate farm to school purchases in the county. Ledge Light Health District will also build demand for fresh local food among school children and parents through a social marketing campaign, presentations to the Board of Education, town councils, and parent and community groups, and by conducting experiential learning activities.

## DELAWARE

### **Laurel School District**

*Laurel, DE*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$38,126*

Laurel School District Nutrition Services will develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable farm to school program through activities that include: assessing the availability and current distribution methods of farm to school produce within a 100 mile radius from the Laurel School District; building partnerships and business relationships with local and regional farmers; partnering with our local university to provide training to local and regional farmers focusing on food safety; partnering with non-profit organizations to train school nutrition staff on advanced food safety, farm to school item preparation, efficiency, and serving line marketing; assessing and revising our existing school wellness policy to encourage the local sourcing of produce for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program; conducting recipe and menu audits to identify areas where farm to school items could be incorporated or improved; and, applying the principles of behavioral economics to all four school cafeterias to encourage students to make healthier choices.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### **Government of the District of Columbia**

*Washington, D.C.*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The proposed plan will build from the widely successful “Harvest of the Month” programs used around the country and on a program piloted in eleven Washington, D.C. schools. Key lessons learned from past farm to school experiences will be incorporated to procure and promote regional foods for school meals; integrate complementary farm and garden based nutrition education; and leverage partnerships. The program will target 15 schools with active school gardens and a 15-member student advisory board will be established. Planned activities include collaborating monthly with small sustainable local and regional growers to highlight “Fresh Farm Feature” food that meets the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act nutrition guidelines; providing hands-on nutrition education and in-cafeteria taste tests; promoting the “Farm Fresh Feature” item to cafeteria staff, school administrators, and students using educational marketing materials; and providing an annual citywide farm to school and school garden celebratory event that will bring schools together to share best practices. University partners will conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative program evaluation.

## FLORIDA

### **Food and Nutrition Sarasota County Schools**

*Sarasota, FL*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

Sarasota County Schools, Food and Nutrition Services established one of the first comprehensive farm to school programs in the state of Florida. Our goal is to source at least fifty percent of our produce purchases from local farms, focusing on the southwest region of Florida. The Implementation Grant will allow us to expand upon and improve the established distribution channels and relationships with local farmers. A farm to school liaison will enhance communication between the school food authority, distributors and local producers. Our well established partnership with the local Cooperative Extension Office will support the farm to school liaison in developing a foundation with essential farm to school contacts. The result will be increased purchases of local produce, support for the local economy, education, and overall quality of the farm to school program. The model will be transferable to other districts and communities.



## **School Board of Alachua County**

*Gainesville, FL*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

Alachua County Public Schools seeks to increase the amount of locally produced foods served in school meals, and to expand nutrition and wellness curriculum through support from a Farm to School Planning Grant. In developing a comprehensive farm to school program, Alachua County Public Schools will focus on high need Title I elementary schools. A farm to school coordinator will be hired to oversee and facilitate various outreach activities and to develop a district nutrition and wellness program, as well as carry out feasibility studies for increasing procurement of local foods and for upgrading district infrastructure to support processing and distribution to individual schools.

## **GEORGIA**

### **Georgia Department of Agriculture**

*Atlanta, GA*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Georgia Department of Agriculture, partnering with the Georgia Department of Education, launched the "Feed My School for a Week" pilot program during the 2011-2012 school year. Three school districts, all located within geographically diverse regions of Georgia, were served 75-100 percent Georgia grown lunches for five consecutive days. During those days, students, faculty, and staff learned where their food comes from, the nutritional value of various foods, and how to make healthy choices for the rest of their lives. Every school hosted farm field trips and agriculture field days during the week. Student projects included school gardens, fresh produce taste testing, and agriculture art and essay contests. The pilot program was an unqualified success! Funding from this grant will allow us, within the next two years, to expand our program by lengthening the pilot schools' programs from one week to one month, and choosing five new schools to participate. It will also allow us to create a user-friendly website and an online farm to school tool kit to be available for all interested schools and other parties. Our long-term goal is to integrate farm to school food and activities into regular school practices for all Georgia schools in a practical, sustainable manner.

### **Athens Land Trust, Inc.**

*Athens, GA*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,700*

The Athens County Farm to School Program will involve students in growing food and participating in agricultural career activities, utilize and expand existing school gardens to grow food on school grounds, and develop the West Broad Market Garden, an urban farm operated by Athens Land Trust on school property, into a food hub and vendor that can provide

school-grown produce for school meals. Athens Land Trust will partner with the Clarke County School District, University of Georgia, and other partners to provide additional training, volunteer support, resources, and coordination for the existing school programs. The program will engage students in agri-science education to grow food for school meals at the middle schools and three high schools. It will also further integrate nutrition education into existing curriculum. The West Broad Market Garden will be developed into a production, distribution, and educational food hub.

## ILLINOIS

### **Children's Home Association of Illinois**

*Peoria, IL*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$36,562*

Children's Home Association of Illinois, which operates a private, not for profit K-12 school, will implement a farm to school program to benefit 200 students across two campuses that are served by the National School Lunch Program. Nearly 70% of the students receive free/reduced price breakfast and lunch and medical records indicate 59% of students are overweight or obese. Although farm to school activities have been conducted successfully, the grant would align our farm to school activities and coordinate resources across programs. A coordinated planning effort would also ensure the development of a robust farm to school program that engages students in educational activities, transforms our kitchens into those that cook healthy, locally sourced ingredients from scratch and provide a framework for future farm to school efforts.

## INDIANA

### **Indiana State Department of Health**

*Indianapolis, IN*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The proposed project will span two years and will focus on the Indiana Farm to School Network, the Hoosier Harvest Market, Greenfield-Central Community Schools, and the 38 other school corporations in Hancock and surrounding counties. The goals of this project are to help schools find and procure local food by developing an understanding of the opportunities for farm to school in this region of Indiana, with special consideration given to the feasibility of a virtual food hub, and to use a strong, focused network of farm to school partners to establish farm to school programs throughout the state. To accomplish this goal, the Indiana State Department of Health's Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity and partners will engage in

activities to develop Indiana's farm to school infrastructure and provide professional development to school food service personnel and local producers.

## IOWA

### **Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative c/o Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission**

*Decorah, IA*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$95,600*

The Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative and its partners will build on the momentum of five years of successful farm to school programs in a six-county region. With this project, Food and Fitness Initiative aims to meet two goals: collaborate with farmers and a new food hub poised to scale-up production and investment in aggregation infrastructure to meet school needs; and, work with four rural school districts with demonstrated readiness to expand their farm to school programming and to increase their local food purchases by 200%. A coordinator at the food hub will help partner districts determine and implement strategies that will increase the amount of regionally grown foods in the meals of over 4,000 rural students. We will work with each partnering district to develop a school wellness action plan, which includes a plan of work for farm to school. We will also provide an AmeriCorps service member to visit each school several times a week to assist with food prep, taste tests, technical assistance, farm to school marketing, and student visits to farms. The schools will serve as models to the larger region, and the lessons learned by the intervention schools will be easily translated to others.

## KANSAS

### **Kansas Department of Agriculture**

*Topeka, KS*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will operate a pilot project in eight school districts to help to develop food procurement pathways to increase the amount of local food served through school meal programs; embed nutrition-based education activities into the school curriculum; and provide community-based partnerships, technical assistance, and capacity building support to the eight pilot school districts. Eight sub-grants of \$12,500 will be awarded to schools with an agriculture education program, through an application and selection committee review. The project director will work with each school recipient to ensure that the following sub-grant objectives are met: establish or expand upon an agriculture education school garden program; serve a minimum of two locally produced food items in the school

cafeteria per month; create a farm to school educational kit for K-12 students; and, host one community GAP training workshop.

## KENTUCKY

### **Greenup County School District**

*Greenup, KY*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$42,960*

The farm to school program in Greenup County will bring together multiple collaborating entities to support the building of school gardens, opening of farmer's markets, connecting to the local farmers, and incorporating gardening into the curriculum. This multifaceted approach will increase student knowledge of gardening, agriculture, and nutrition. In addition, students will have greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables that are locally grown.

### **Perry County Schools**

*Hazard, KY*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$35,620*

Perry County Schools will implement a grant to benefit 4,209 students across 11 schools in a rural school district in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. All students receive free or reduced lunch and breakfast, and according to a BMI assessment by school nurses, at least a third are considered to be overweight. This planning grant will build on modest past efforts of the Perry County Farm to School Task Force, which has hosted several school events and instituted a Farm to School Curriculum for all 8th graders across the district. This grant would assist Perry County Schools in resolving challenges that have so far been insurmountable, including difficulties in procurement of local foods, and in transportation and distribution infrastructure. The main objectives include building relationships with local producers by hosting 10 events; designing a plan for transportation, delivery, processing and storing foods; building a school garden; ensuring sufficient community support; and publishing a comprehensive, public implementation plan.

## LOUISIANA

### **East Baton Rouge Parish School System**

*Baton Rouge, LA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System farm to school program will provide opportunities for students and parents that live in food deserts in North and Old South Baton Rouge the opportunity to sample fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. Activities at the four selected elementary schools (Baton Rouge Foreign Language Academic Immersion Magnet,

Buchanan, Ryan, and Winbourne Elementary Schools) will include “tastings” of locally produced fruits and vegetables for students and parents, visits from a local mobile farmers market, and “Sprouting Healthy Kids” programs such as cooking and gardening. In conjunction with members of Mayor Holden’s Healthy City Initiative, Big River Economic and Agriculture Department Alliance, Slow Food Baton Rouge, and East Baton Rouge Parish School System’s Child Nutrition Program, we will examine the most effective methods for increasing the amount of local food in East Baton Rouge public schools.

### **Firstline Schools, Inc. / Edible Schoolyard New Orleans**

*New Orleans, LA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

“Whole Child through the Garden and Cafeteria” will expand efforts to connect 2,561 urban K-12 students to local food sources through healthy, locally procured cafeteria meals and snacks, hands-on seed-to-table gardening and cooking activities, Louisiana standards based classes, farm visits and farmers market field trips. Students attending FirstLine Schools, a network of five open admissions public charter schools in New Orleans, are economically and geographically disadvantaged, with limited access to fresh local products. FirstLine’s signature program, Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, creates demand “from the ground up,” engaging children in growing their own food in schoolyard gardens. Children and parents gain respect for and understanding of local food systems through integrated classes and special “edible” events. Parents and teachers harvest schoolyard crops, and are encouraged and equipped to take healthy food purchasing risks, to start their own gardens, and to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into family meals. This project aims to increase the amount of locally-procured food served in FirstLine school cafeterias, to provide more agricultural and nutrition-based learning opportunities, and to expand a new family-supported agriculture program in FirstLine schools. Its goal is increased knowledge, changed attitudes and behavior among students and parents, resulting in increased consumption of locally-sourced fresh foods.

## **MAINE**

### **Healthy Communities of the Capital Area**

*Gardiner, ME*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

“K-12 Eating Local Foods” overcomes barriers to institutionalize eating abundant local foods at school every day by developing systems to better link local farms to schools. The two-year project develops resources and processes to overcome existing barriers by streamlining ordering, delivery, and processing through linkages to existing local foods online buying clubs and includes youth engagement. Our twelve-year history of collaboration with many partners

includes supporting seven school districts partnering on public health policy and environmental change efforts. With USDA funding, we will engage schools to address identified barriers to farm to school implementation. "K-12 Eating Local Foods" serves as a pilot for replication and expansion throughout the region and develops infrastructure necessary for successful local procurement. The three schools participating in year one of the project are current collaborators, show a high level of readiness, and reflect the economic diversity of our communities from high need to more affluent. Collectively, we will successfully implement farm to school.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Somerville Public Schools**

*Somerville, MA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

Somerville Public Schools will implement a grant to benefit nearly 5,000 students in a richly diverse community. Somerville is a dense urban city adjacent to Boston, with a population of 75,754 residents packed into 4.1 square miles. Somerville is thirteenth largest city in Massachusetts and one of the most economically, culturally, and linguistically diverse, bringing together recent immigrants from all over the world and generations of families who have made Somerville their home for decades. 69.2% of Somerville Public Schools students qualify for free or reduced lunch and more than half (51.1%) list a first language other than English. This planning grant would allow Somerville Public Schools and partners to strategically align, implement new programs and expand existing farm to school efforts, conduct a needs assessment and menu audit to determine next steps in developing a district-wide farm to school plan, identify local food vendors and products that can be introduced into school menus, and develop a comprehensive long-term strategy that supports local sourcing and brings the community together in promoting farm to school efforts as a way of life.

### **Springfield Public Schools**

*Springfield, MA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,998*

Our farm to school enhancement project seeks to increase Springfield Public School students' access to and understanding of the need for nutritious foods. The first part of the project will focus on increasing purchase of fresh, regionally grown, minimally processed produce for students' consumption from the current 12% to 20% of total annual food costs. The second part of the project will enhance the agricultural education framework and provide for increased experiential learning opportunities to create more informed and healthier future consumers, with an increase in the number of students impacted from the current 1.4% to 60.6%. These projects combined with the implementation of evaluation measurement tools and a Springfield

Public School community wellness fair will serve to create a more cohesive farm to school program.

## MICHIGAN

### **Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District**

*Saul Ste. Marie, MI*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District's "F.R.E.S.H. Schools Project" is located in Michigan's rural and isolated Upper Peninsula, an area with high rates of unemployment and low incomes. We are applying as a consortium of seven districts, with 55% of the students receiving free or reduced price lunch. We will collectively assess the districts and come to the table with farmers, local supply chain access points, our schools, and our partners on a monthly basis to create a plan for farm to school program implementation. We will complete menu audits and then design a common menu between districts. This will allow growers to better plan for demand will facilitate group procurement. We will implement the Michigan's Harvest of the Month program featuring ready-to-go tools and resources for educators to give students hands-on opportunities to learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. We will also provide field trips to local farms, connecting students with the people who grow, raise and produce food. During these visits, farmers will go through operations and talk about the products they grow or raise food on their farms.

## MINNESOTA

### **Independent School District 197**

*Mendota Heights, MN*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$20,693*

Independent School District 197 will implement a farm to school program in order to establish the capacity within the district to increase the procurement of local foods used in our breakfast, lunch, and afterschool meal programs. The focus of our activities will include: establishing a planning committee comprised of school and community members, researching and establishing relationships with local farmers, ranchers, and distributors necessary to establishing supply partners, participating in trainings aimed at increasing our knowledge and confidence in coordinating a farm to school activities, and creating a farm to school implementation plan. These activities will allow this school district to bridge healthy food and nutrition efforts with the greater context of the food system and educate students on this connection.

## **Minnesota Department of Agriculture**

*St. Paul, MN*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$90,761*

This project leverages the experience and expertise of two well established programs within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture: the Minnesota Grown Program and the Minnesota Ag in the Classroom Program. By doing so, we will create linkages between classrooms, school gardens, cafeterias. Project funds will allow us to hire an employee to assist schools in implementing the new Minnesota School Garden Guide and the Farm to School Youth Leadership Curriculum, and work one on one to match school foodservice districts with local farmers who can meet their requests for specific products. The tie to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's existing programs ensures that the work of this project will be sustained into the future. For example, the work of matching foodservice staff with farmers will further populate our database of farmers who supply school districts, making it easier for other districts to source locally even after this project comes to a close. Requested grant funds are matched with staff time from seasoned professionals who have a wealth of farm to school experience and connections with schools as well as farmers.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**

*Choctaw, MS*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,339*

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (a federally-recognized Indian tribe) operates the largest unified reservation school system in the United States with 2,194 students. There are six elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Per the National Center for Health Statistics Guidelines, 19.8% in the age 2-18 cohort are considered overweight and 35.6% are obese (or, at risk of obesity). The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has a Fresh Produce Initiative which raises fruits and vegetables for use in schools and the tribal resort. The tribal council has advised the school system to incorporate locally produced foods into the menus in school food service operations, and this application seeks funding for planning for that activity.

### **The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi**

*Flowood, MS*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$89,844*

As of September 2011, there were no "farm direct" programs operating in public schools in Mississippi. The U.S. Department of Defense's Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program, operated jointly by the Mississippi Departments of Education, Agriculture, and, Commerce, is the only state-level effort for purchasing produce from Mississippi farmers. However, many small



farmers still cannot participate because they do not meet state inspection and certification requirements. The majority of small and medium-sized farmers in Mississippi simply do not have current information nor the expertise or financial resources to obtain Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) certification. The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi proposes to address these challenges by providing statewide coordination of farm to school activities in Mississippi and increasing farm to school capacity building efforts by providing training and technical assistance for key stakeholders. Successful implementation of this proposed project will result in the institutionalization of a farm to school program; increased knowledge as a result of information dissemination efforts, regional conferences, and educational booths at local farmers' markets; and, an increase of at least five school districts (over a current baseline of zero) utilizing small to mid-sized Mississippi farmers for fruit and vegetable purchases.

## MISSOURI

### **Polk County Reorganized School District R-1**

*Bolivar, MO*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$39,571*

The Polk County Reorganized School District R-1, in collaboration with Fair Play and Humansville School systems and Living Well Alliance will plan a farm to school program benefitting 3,383 students located in a rural area of southwest Missouri. An average of 69% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, with several of those participating in the "Back Pack" program to help supply meals on the weekend as well. This project will accelerate these districts' progress toward a restructuring of their "Comprehensive School Health Programs," which will expand produce with higher nutrient content into all meals served to students. While these districts have taken modest steps to date, such as movement toward more fresh fruits and vegetables to students when available and initial participation in the Healthier US School Challenge, no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. This funding will provide opportunity for these districts to address gaps and resources in their planning work that would add essential, missing elements to expand healthy nutrition benefits to all students in the districts.

### **School District of Springfield R-12**

*Springfield, MO*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,672*

The School District of Springfield R-12 is the largest accredited school district in Missouri with 24,878 students in schools. We have a federal free/reduced lunch rate of 54.3%, and 40% of all

fifth graders are overweight and/or obese. Currently, we are not serving local food in the school cafeteria. The overarching goal of our project is to craft policy of incorporating local foods district wide that will be accepted through all levels of the school district while being compatible with food distributors. It is imperative that we start at the beginning by creating a complete plan that becomes accepted policy instead of just trying to haphazardly add local foods here and there. The objectives of this project are to expand our Local Food Access Team; examine school infrastructure and provide education regarding the farm to school toolkit; purchase a salad bar for three elementary schools while educating students about food; examine existing school structure and create a needs assessment for farm to school; and create a farm to school implementation plan. These goals will enable the School District of Springfield R-12 to contract with a food distributor willing to garner local foods, explore supply chain opportunities, and begin to feed students with and educate them about local foods.

## **MONTANA**

### **Livingston School Districts 4 & 1**

*Livingston, MT*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,001*

The major components of this proposal include an animal husbandry project that will involve students raising animals that will be processed and used in the school cafeterias; the expansion, development, and maintenance of school gardens at each school in the district; a remodel the interior of the existing greenhouse at Sleeping Giant Middle School to create the space for an aquaponics program that will be used to grow produce; the hiring of full-time Farmer Educator who will be responsible for farm to school instruction (during and after school), grounds keeping and maintenance of the gardens, preparation of food for use by the food service, and maintenance of relationships with farm to school supporters and local food producers; development of a detailed farm to school curriculum that will be shared with interested parties via the newly developed farm to school website; and, the purchase of kitchen equipment to alleviate burdens currently associated with processing local foods. These efforts will allow the Livingston School Districts to provide more local and fresh protein and produce than ever before, while educating students about the importance of sustainable agriculture.

### **National Center for Appropriate Technology**

*Butte, MT*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$96,705*

The "Regional Farm to School Pilot Project" is an initiative in which three school districts in south central Montana collaborate with the National Center for Appropriate Technology's program, Farm to Cafeteria Network, to create an urban/rural model for farm to school. Participating schools will outline future goals in local food procurement and nutrition

education as well as share resources and best practices for farm to school in their region. The project includes: the creation of a farm to school coordinating committee in each community that meets monthly and builds on collaboration; ongoing implementation of nutrition education and garden-based curriculum (with partner FoodCorps and participating teachers); technical assistance for districts' food service professionals about preparing local foods to meet school nutrition guidelines (with partner Montana Team Nutrition); and an annual technical training for regional food producers interested in selling to schools (with partner Montana State University Extension). The farm to school outreach and education coordinator will compile and formalize educational materials as well as tips and lessons learned to enhance the program's transferability to other regions in Montana.

## NEBRASKA

### **Center for Rural Affairs**

*Lyons, NE*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,600*

"Growing Markets for Farm to School: Networking and training to bring farmers and schools together" will build connections for farm to school programs in rural eastern Nebraska through face-to-face networking. Additionally, we will train farmers and school food service personnel in farm product safety and usage, provide individual farm to school facilitation for ten pilot schools, and raise awareness of farm to school, laying foundation for future expansion. The Center for Rural Affairs will hold two farm to school summits in eastern Nebraska. These summits build the personal connections between farmers and schools that we have found to be essential, while inspiring and informing participants about farm to school possibilities. We will also hold training sessions in farm food safety and usage for farmers and school food service personnel, in the form of workshops and webinars. We will select ten schools and provide individual farm to school facilitation for those schools. Lastly, we will use our robust media staff to bring statewide and regional attention to our farm to school activities.

## NEVADA

### **Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties**

*Dayton, NV*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

Lyon County School District and Healthy Communities Coalition's will collaboratively work with local producers, cooperatives, and school gardens to increase access to locally grown and minimally processed foods for the children and teens of Lyon County. Together our goals are to: increase the economic prosperity for our local farmers; increase the health and wellness of

our children; and, increase the number of food-literate children through school garden exposure. To meet these goals, Healthy Communities will work with local farms, vendors, cooperatives, food management companies, the Lyon County School District, and the Mason Valley Boys and Girls Clubs to develop strategies for increasing the availability of local food in the school lunch program, increasing school garden production, and encouraging the utilization of school garden produce in student snacks at the Boys and Girls Clubs.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### **Portsmouth School Department**

*Portsmouth, NH*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$30,737*

The CLIPPERS Farm to School project is an exciting school department initiative in Portsmouth, NH, a small, vibrant city in the Seacoast region of southern New Hampshire. Over the past several years, pioneering parents, students, community members, teachers and staff have taken the initiative on their own to bring fresh, healthy, locally grown food into our classrooms, cafeterias, and consciousness. Some schools have started gardens. Another has a student-run environmental club. Our cafeterias are composting. We're making soup from locally grown pumpkins, talking to farmers about bringing local beef into the district, and offering "Try It" days to give students a chance to discover new foods. Our challenge now is to build on this excitement, spread the good ideas across the district, and make the work sustainable over time. The funding for this grant will allow us to do the planning we need to make this dream a reality.

## NEW JERSEY

### **Bridgeton Public Schools**

*Bridgeton, NJ*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,997.00*

Bridgeton Public School district stands behind a long established tradition of preparing school meals and snacks fresh in house with all students enjoying the health benefits of limited processing and packaging. In conjunction with the Grow Green Together Program, the District plans to expand and enhance current food services to include more locally sourced and seasonal produce items. In addition, the district sees the need to instill within students the knowledge garnered from cultivating their own food items. The program will plan to build sustainable school gardens, implement a district-wide food composting systems and delve deeper into greenhouse operations and hydroponic farming. Through the Grow Green Together

Program, Bridgeton students will be exposed to a world of new foods, scientific processes and healthy lifestyles while the schools and community work together towards a greener future.

### **LEAP Academy University Charter School**

*Camden, NJ*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,460*

LEAP Academy University Charter School, located in Camden, NJ, is seeking USDA Farm to School funding to plan activities that would allow our school district to implement a partnership with our current food vendor and local farms to meet our goals of using the freshest foods possible into our daily school meals. The initiative also includes educational components for students and their parents.

### **Passaic Public Schools**

*Passaic, NJ*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,592*

Passaic Public Schools is enthusiastic about developing a farm to school program in our schools and community. Farm to School Passaic will build upon efforts to provide nutrient rich, tasty, attractive food selections and to increase the procurement, serving, awareness and production of locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables, other foods. Passaic Public Schools has built capacity for this project through Fresh Fruits and Vegetable and Great American Salad Bar grants, awarded for strong leadership and higher education resources. Our planning year objectives are to identify local farmers, supply chain partners, and other stakeholders and mobilize a strong and effective Farm to School Passaic team to work collaboratively to increase procurement of regional foods by 20%; conduct a needs assessment to examine existing infrastructure, opportunities and challenges for farm to school activities and propose workable solutions to facilitate a 20% increase in farm to school purchases, storage, preparation, serving, and successful integration of farm to school nutrition-based education; and create a comprehensive farm to school implementation plan with objectives, activities, action steps, persons responsible and timetables to increase local procurement by 20%, raise nutrition awareness and encourage healthier eating.

## **NEW MEXICO**

### **La Semilla Food Center**

*Anthony, NM*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,533*

La Semilla is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a healthy, self-reliant, fair, and sustainable food system in the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. La Semilla Farm to School Program project focuses on making local food products available on school lunch menus within the Las Cruces Public School District. The

proposed project will integrate local products, with a focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, and value-added food products, into the lunches of 3,091 middle school students, 72 percent of which are on free/reduced lunch. As a support organization, La Semilla will work with Las Cruces Public School District food service administrators and staff to provide nutrition and garden education that fosters an understanding of how food is produced; design and implement a promotional campaign that enhances student and public awareness of the farm to school program; and provide technical assistance to food producers entering the school market.

## NEW YORK

### **The New York Botanical Garden**

*New York, NY*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,977*

The New York Botanical Garden, in collaboration with Leave It Better, proposes an education and procurement project to benefit 12 public and charter schools in New York City. The project will test a holistic school gardening model that integrates school gardening activities with hands-on workshops in the New York Botanical Garden's Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden and Greenmarket. Gardening activities will be complemented by nutrition education, standards-based curricula, and farmer's market exercises, as well as professional development for teachers and workshops for parents/administrators. The model will also incorporate a summer program to evaluate the impact of school-year food education vs. year-round food education on children's attitudes toward food. Additionally, the project will pilot test and evaluate a procurement program for three Bronx charter schools. It will identify barriers that prevent schools from using food service providers that source locally grown food and implement proposed solutions to connect participating schools with these providers. Exploratory discussions with stakeholders will also look at ways non-profits and farmers can collaborate with New York City and its food service provider to increase procurement in public schools. A garden coordinator will work part-time in the school gardens to provide technical support, and will oversee implementation of the procurement component.

### **Orange County Department of Health**

*Goshen, NY*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Orange County Department of Health in New York State will partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County to implement a support services farm to school program for local farmers and schools throughout the county. Called, "Healthy Orange Farm to School," the program will create healthful and positive policy, system, and environmental changes for schools and our local community through various farm to school initiatives.

Taking a three-pronged approach, Healthy Orange will work to connect schools with local farmers by assisting in streamlining the bidding and procurement process, as well as creating a committee to expand and strengthen community partnerships; increase the skills and knowledge of school food service personnel through hands-on trainings; and create an integrated approach that includes educational and promotional activities, including agriculture and nutrition based education programs.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools**

*Chapel Hill, NC*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$74,448*

The goal of this Farm to School Implementation proposal is to fully develop the Home Base Together Achieving Good Grub Education and Development (TAGGED) curriculum, manual, and train-the-trainer classes in the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, and to work with a sample of North Carolina public schools (urban and rural) to facilitate the use of more locally grown foods in schools by building school cafeteria infrastructure and human capital in the child nutrition staff. Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, with consultation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, will augment the Home Base curriculum with lessons on menu planning as well as communication skills to help child nutrition service staff to encourage healthy eating among students and provide items that use locally sourced foods through the North Carolina Farm to School Program and/or direct purchasing. Our partnering schools can choose to participate in one or all of our activities that address known barriers to successful implementation of farm to school programs.

### **NC Public Health Foundation**

*Raleigh, NC*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$84,908*

This project will demonstrate collaboration between schools, government agencies, nongovernmental and community based organizations, agricultural producer groups, and countless other community partners through a strong statewide coalition. Funding will support the Farm to School Coalition of NC in developing partnerships and conducting statewide planning and operations related to farm to school efforts. Given that 56% of North Carolina students qualify for free or reduced price school meals, the statewide work of the Coalition will reach a significant number of students and families in need of healthy, affordable local food and resources to support healthy eating. By the close of the grant, the Coalition will have developed a statewide directory of farm to school leaders, contacts, and resources, and will have hosted eight regional stakeholder meetings and one statewide conference.

## OHIO

### **Fremont City Schools**

*Fremont, OH*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$29,735*

Fremont City Schools seeks a Farm to School Planning Grant benefiting 4,236 students in Sandusky County, Ohio, where more than 60% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch and 14% are obese. While Fremont City Schools has undertaken some related activities to date, no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. The farm to school grant would further the health and wellness efforts laid out in the school district's strategic plan, and expand initiatives to all nine schools in the district, therefore embedding farm to school activities into school culture and keeping them front and center in the broader community.

### **Reynoldsburg City School District**

*Reynoldsburg, OH*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$42,197*

The Reynoldsburg Edible Schoolyard Project is designed for K-12 students to learn about nutrition, make ecological observations, and learn about local food systems and the business of creating a garden-to-cafeteria program. Partners include local child-care provider, Kiddie Academy of Reynoldsburg, and the City of Reynoldsburg's Parks and Recreation Department. The education program will be integrated into the district's K-12 STEM curriculum as well as STEM-focused afterschool and summer programs.

### **South Euclid Lyndhurst School District**

*Lyndhurst, OH*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,949*

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Project Cuyahoga County's first farm to school program will continue to make the healthy choice the easy choice for students in the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District. Over 24 months, the South Euclid Lyndhurst Project will continue to increase the quality and variety of locally procured offerings; establish new procurement methods; assist with capital investment in kitchen infrastructure needs; and launch a social marketing campaign.

## OKLAHOMA

### **Osage Hills Public Schools**

*Bartlesville, OK*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,847*

Osage Hills Public School will work with eleven school districts to benefit 4,993 students in rural northeastern Oklahoma where an average of 71% of students are eligible for free and



reduced lunch, and an average of 43% are Native American. Each district is a member of Osage County Interlocal Cooperative, which will be contracted with to manage the farm to school grant. A previous grant awarded to all 12 districts has promoted healthy eating and nutrition education, as well as provided minimal training for cafeteria managers through farm to school area representatives. Funding from the USDA Farm to School Grant will allow our district to initiate a program to incorporate healthy foods into the school breakfast, lunch, and after school programs.

### **Pryor Public Schools**

*Pryor, OK*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

The "Fuel Your Body" project will plan a comprehensive farm to school program at all five Pryor Public Schools' sites, serving 2,600 students in grades K-12. Funding will support farm to school planning meetings and workshops, conduct inventories of all facilities, create farm to school farm/produce partnerships, complete an assessment with the farm to school evaluation toolkit, and create a plan for sustainability. Partners include the Extension Service, the Cherokee Nation, the State Farm to School Program, Shanks Farm, and others. Upon completion of the planning period, Pryor Public Schools will have the infrastructure, capacity, and tools to fully integrate a farm to school initiative in the district.

## **OREGON**

### **Ecotrust**

*Portland, OR*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,507*

"Comprehensive Systems to Understand Oregon's Farm to School Needs, Opportunities, and Successes" will build on existing data collection efforts (e.g., USDA's Farm to School Census) to develop practical and sustainable systems to collect data and establish a baseline for farm to school and school garden activity in Oregon. The project will develop dynamic systems to display and share this data so that programs, agencies, organizations, school districts, and other partners are able to see and effectively respond to the strengths and needs of Oregon's programs; set realistic and ambitious goals; and track progress. The project will help boost Oregon's farm to school movement to the next level by responding to the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network's stated need for effective tracking systems for farm to school activities. Once in place, these systems will not only help individual districts to set goals and measure progress, but also inform the efforts of the statewide Network, helping it to target resources most effectively. The systems developed and data collected via this project will also benefit. Oregon Farm to School policy advocates are working to expand a current farm to school grants pilot to a statewide program.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### **The School District of Philadelphia**

*Philadelphia, PA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$95,500*

The School District of Philadelphia Eat Fresh Here project will freeze local seasonal produce during the months of June and July so that it can be used during the winter months when such produce is not locally available. Produce will be frozen at a central location and maintained in freezers in two to three locations. The first year of the project will be a pilot focused on one product, such as blueberries, for two schools. Having a pilot program in the first year will allow the School District of Philadelphia to address any challenges that arise in areas such as, but not limited to, freezing, distribution, taste testing and recipe development. Blueberries will be used in breakfast items such as yogurt, baked goods and oatmeal. In the second year, we plan on freezing two products, such as blueberries and collard greens. The program will be introduced to an additional five schools for a total of seven participating schools.

## RHODE ISLAND

### **Farm Fresh Rhode Island**

*Pawtucket, RI*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$91,917*

With funding from the USDA Farm to School Program, Farm Fresh Rhode Island's Farm to School Project will pilot the use of fresh-frozen local produce in public school districts. The farm to school project will enact this pilot in partnership with the Central Falls, Newport and Providence School Districts, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Training School, where the blast freezing program will be located. This farm to school value chain will be supported by educational activities including classroom, cafeteria and farm-based programs, that relate to the local farms and products.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### **School District Five Lexington and Richland**

*Irmo, SC*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,933*

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties proposes to implement a farm to school program over two years to create new, robust farm to school projects in eight schools in our district. Through this cost-effective initiative, we will implement a sustainable program that expands local food offerings in our schools, engages students in eating more and a greater variety of locally grown products, creates peer mentorship opportunities to launch

effective school gardening and experiential learning opportunities, trains school foodservice personnel in effective procurement and preparation of local foods, trains educators in integrating curricula to include food and nutrition-based learning across the school culture, and implements a marketing plan to engage our school and local community in the project. As a result, approximately 4,661 students will gain hands-on learning experiences about the cultivation and consumption of healthy local foods, participating schools will integrate local produce into their menus and into the K-12 curricula and our community will benefit from increased engagement and participation.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

### **Wolsey-Wessington Public School District 2-6**

*Wolsey, SD*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$21,631*

Wolsey-Wessington Public School District's farm to school project will benefit 310 students in a rural and remote school district in central South Dakota. Forty-nine percent of our students are overweight or obese according to the 2012 SD Health Data, and over 44% receive free or reduced lunch. The district has no experience in local food procurement but is anxious to begin the process. Though the district has taken steps to improve the nutrition in the food program by providing a daily salad bar and serving whole grain bread, this project will improve the quality of our food by incorporating local products, and will also provide teachable moments that will help educate our students about nutrition and the origin of their food.

## **TEXAS**

### **Idea Public Schools**

*Weslaco, TX*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,232*

IDEA Public Schools is a high-performing network of 28 tuition-free K-12 public charter schools serving 12,878 students in Texas's Rio Grande Valley. By 2017, IDEA will grow to a network of 56 schools serving more than 40,000 students. The Valley (where Texas meets Mexico) is the most obese metropolitan area in the nation: 38.8% of adults are obese. It is also the poorest, with 52.8% of all households with children receiving food stamp assistance and 84% of IDEA students participating in the free/reduced meal program. IDEA has a system of three school-based farms that have been recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture as the largest in the state, but production is uneven and a reliable crop cycle has not been established. This Farm to School Planning Grant will increase access to local and regional foods and integrate nutrition-based efforts across the curriculum at all IDEA schools. Grant

funds will provide an organic farm consultant, training for IDEA's farmers, and nutrition education programming for students. Potential partners include the University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health/Brownsville Regional Campus, Recipe for Success, and Infant and Family Nutrition Agency of Cameron County.

## VERMONT

### **Milton Town School District**

*Milton, VT*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,712*

In August of 2011, the Milton Town School District provided its food service director with a mandate that the district needed to improve its food service program to guarantee that healthy, nutritious and locally sourced foods were used within the district whenever possible. The district's Wellness Committee formed a farm to school subcommittee, tasked with reviewing and developing a means by which the district could implement a sustainable program that incorporated greater use of local food items. Milton stands ready to implement such a program with financial assistance through this grant. During the initial phase of this program, a farm to school coordinator will be hired to manage curriculum development and delivery methods, as well as improved access and integration of local food purchases into the district's menus. The program will improve selection and participation in the school's lunch program, increase options for sourcing fresh foods locally, better educate students and the community about local food sources, and support local farms in the region.

## VIRGINIA

### **Chesapeake Public Schools**

*Chesapeake, VA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$33,750*

Chesapeake Public Schools has partnered with Five Points Community Farm Market in an effort to incorporate more fresh locally grown foods into our menus. Chesapeake Public Schools already has many necessary resources in place to begin planning a farm to school program. This farm to school project will be accomplished by establishing a stakeholder advisory group; developing a sustainable procurement method; increasing access to fresh local produce; hosting a symposium to communicate our efforts; offering multiple educational opportunities; gaining community support; and developing a farm to school implementation plan. The Chesapeake Farm to School planning project will have nutritional, educational, and economic impacts on students, employees, families, and the community.

## **Sustain Floyd Foundation**

*Floyd, VA*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$98,389*

A combination of project activities will expand the existing network and programs to all schools in Floyd County, Virginia, and develop and implement promotional campaigns in support of farm to school initiatives while creating a model for rural communities that face particular challenges in food procurement and experiential food-based education. At the end of the project period, all county schools will be integrated into the system to increase local food purchases, a central storage facility and a hydroponic winter growing system will be in place, and a functioning, replicable model will be operating for all programs. Partnerships will be formed with neighboring county buying partners looking to expand the model regionally.

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Concrete School District**

*Concrete, WA*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$40,000*

The Concrete School District farm to school planning project will serve 571 students at two schools in a rural school district in western Washington State. Free and reduced-priced meals are served to 61.5% of the student population.

### **Olympia School District**

*Olympia, WA*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$76,700*

The vision of the GRuB School Expansion Project is to creatively increase farm-based leadership and learning opportunities for students of all ages while also increasing local food products available in all schools within the Olympia School District. Disengaged and low-income high school students from Olympia High School will participate in a summer employment training program and an academic year program earning credits in biology, American history, and horticulture. Students will apply learning to the management of two local farms – Muirhead Farm and the GRuB Farm. The 15 acre Muirhead Farm will grow organic vegetables and fruits specifically for the Olympia School District's lunch programs. Utilizing heated greenhouses and season extension technology, the farm will have the capacity to produce food year-round for district needs. We project that the farm will be able to produce 10,000 pounds of produce in year one. In three years, the farm will have the capacity to produce 25,000 pounds. The farm will also serve as an outdoor educational space for students and families from Centennial Elementary. The GRuB Farm will produce food for a neighborhood market and provide farm-based fieldtrips for 500+ elementary and middle school students from the Olympia School District.

## WISCONSIN

### **Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative**

*Washburn, WI*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$76,742*

Expanding farm to school in northern Wisconsin will require solving the challenge of a very short growing season. Through a collaborative effort, the Member Producers of the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative will help local school districts install and manage high tunnels to supplement each district's school gardens. The tunnels will allow district educators to implement experiential, project-based learning in the spring and fall seasons. In addition, the high tunnels will help the schools provide nutrient-dense hardy greens and other vegetables to the students in their lunch and snacks. To further the impact of the high tunnels, UW Extension and the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative will develop and implement an "agripreneur" training program to encourage older students to use high tunnels for commercial vegetable production. Further expanding the impact of farm to school efforts in the region, we will assist the community (schools, families, restaurants) in developing locally-relevant meals that are healthy and easy to prepare, that can be served at schools, restaurants, and at home, and that can be sourced from local producers. This multi-faceted approach to farm to school will increase opportunities for experiential learning, the volume of local vegetables consumed at school, and help transfer lessons learned at school to home, where health outcomes are largely determined.

### **Research, Education, Action and Policy on Food Group (REAP)**

*Madison, WI*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$83,185*

REAP Food Group will put in place the necessary systems to increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables sold by local farmers to school food services, starting by connecting farmers, processors, and buyers at the Madison Metropolitan School District to supply Wisconsin produce for the district's new salad bars.

### **Winnebago County Health Department**

*Oshkosh, WI*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,870*

"re:TH!NK," a healthy living coalition in the state of Wisconsin and a program of the Winnebago County Health Department, will support farm to school programs in three participating school districts through freezing of local produce for use in school lunches, promoting healthy eating through various farm to school activities, events, and programs, and establishing the framework for the development of a self-sustaining system to manage the procurement of locally-grown food for use in school lunches.