

# USDA Farm to School FY 2015 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 2015 grantees. (The descriptions below were adapted from grant applications. In some cases they have been edited by USDA staff.)*

Note: Award amounts are subject to change.

## ALABAMA

### **Birmingham City Schools**

*Birmingham, Alabama*

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

Birmingham City Schools (BCS) will support the expansion of the Good School Food Program, a farm to school initiative currently operating in two of the five schools located in the Woodlawn community, with plans to expand operations in all five schools by August 2015. Funding will support three primary goals: 1) Increase the amount of locally grown foods procured by BCS and served in the cafeterias of the five schools in the Woodlawn community; 2) Expand the availability of innovative hands-on learning through agricultural and nutrition education, including alignment with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards; and 3) Increase coordination at the state and local level to support the implementation of farm to school activities in BCS.

## ALASKA

### **State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture**

*Palmer, Alaska*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$25,000*

The Alaska Division of Agriculture Farm to School Program will host the first ever farm to school conference in Anchorage. The first day will emphasize farm to school in the classroom and community and the second day will focus on the cafeteria and local food producers. Session topics include garden based education, a farmer/producer networking session, local food procurement, school garden food safety, rural farm to school solutions, farm to school success stories, sustaining a program, and a farm to school funding discussion. Nearly 100 stakeholders have provided input into what they would like to see at the conference with people from all over the state planning to attend.

### **Southeast Conference**

*Juneau, Alaska*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; 25,000*

The goal of the Southeast Alaska Farm and Fish to School Conference is to promote the formation of a network of local food producers and advocates, school administrators, business managers, food service staff and educators, and relevant state and local agencies. It will feature successful models in action; methods to integrate local foods into daily meal preparation; cooking demonstrations and recipes for local foods; place-based, culturally appropriate implementation; and, local foods procurement.

## ARIZONA

### **Arizona Department of Education**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$25,000*

The Health and Nutrition Services Division of the Arizona Department of Education will continue its work in local procurement. To strengthen buyer-supplier relationships, the grant will be used to provide exhibit space for local food suppliers to showcase their products to an expected turnout of 350 school food buyers at the Health and Nutrition Services Processing Conference and Food Show.

## ARKANSAS

### **Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute**

*Little Rock, Arkansas*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$49,918*

Building on our farm to school work through the Arkansas Grow Healthy Study, we will conduct multiple regional summits in the spring and summer of 2015. Attendees will include local farmers, child nutrition staff, city administrators, health professionals, education professionals, and community members (up to 50 attendees per summit). Each event will focus on drawing attendance from one regional area, including Arkansas and its six bordering states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas). The objectives are to train child nutrition staff in knowledge and skills to menu, procure, market, and prepare local foods in schools; to educate farmers about the Arkansas Market Maker program, school food safety requirements, and how to conduct business with schools; and to create new connections between community partners who support farm to school and child nutrition staff who need help finding farmers, planning events, and building a program around local procurement efforts.

### **Lawrence County School District**

*Walnut Ridge, Arkansas*

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

The Lawrence County Farm to School Initiative is a project based on implementing the comprehensive plan developed with support from a 2013 USDA Farm to School planning grant. Activities will allow the three school districts (Lawrence County, Hoxie, and Sloan-Hendrix) to concentrate on the development of the local/regional food procurement, school gardening, and integrated curriculum modules that were central to the vision developed in the three-year farm to school plan.

## CALIFORNIA

### **Community Alliance with Family Farmers**

*Davis, California*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$25,000*

The California Farm to School Network (CFSN), coordinated by the Community Alliance with Family Farmers and Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, is a statewide initiative and resource hub that unifies, aligns, and connects farm to school efforts across the state of California. CFSN's first annual conference will bring together 300 farm to school stakeholders with the intent of continuing to bridge connections across sectors and geographies over three days of conference activities and sessions.

## **The National Farm to School Network, Tides Center**

*San Francisco, California*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$ 49,987*

The National Farm to School Network will host a national conference, “Strengthening the Farm to School Supply Chain across the Nation.” This conference will bring together farm to school leaders at the state, regional, and national levels, along with invited content experts, for targeted training, resource sharing and networking, with the primary objective of strengthening and expanding farm to school initiatives across the nation. This conference will provide consistent and up-to-date training, information, and resource sharing that can then be the basis for further outreach in all geographic regions of the United States. The two-day event will cover a variety of farm to school topics including procurement, food safety, program and impact evaluation, farm to school in Native American communities, partnerships for success, and farm to school in summer.

## **Chico Unified School District**

*Chico, California*

*Grant Type: Implementation – \$99,973*

We will build on our strong farm to school foundation and partnerships to put into place the infrastructure and personnel for a comprehensive and fully sustainable farm to school program. Our project will result in an increase in the percentage of local products offered on cafeteria menus (our goal is to have 50% of our produce sourced locally within three years); an increase in the number and variety of experiential activities provided to students in all our schools, including “Chefs in the Classroom,” school gardens, and “Farmer of the Month;” a strong and ongoing collaboration with community partners, agricultural producers, and farm to school advocates; the capacity to sustain our program by establishing a central produce procurement kitchen, linking with local food hubs, and training site coordinators at each elementary school to act as a liaison with the districtwide farm to school program, and more readily assist teachers to implement farm to school activities.

## **Center for Ecoliteracy**

*Berkeley, California*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,969*

The Center for Ecoliteracy (CEL) will help 15 partner school districts launch California Thursdays. California Thursdays is a “bite sized” implementation and marketing program designed to enable motivated school districts to start or extend school food innovations and farm to school efforts. CEL will create new resources for its California Thursday toolkit, including proven strategies and practical assets for linking schools with regional agriculture, menu development, nutrition staff training, communication and public relations efforts, and nutrition education. CEL will commence recruiting a new cohort of 15 additional partner districts at the California School Nutrition Association Conference in November 2014 to launch in spring 2015, expand the toolkit of resources, and establish an innovation network including pilot districts and allied organizations. Data reflecting California products served will be collected.

## **Community Health Improvement Partners**

*San Diego, California*

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

Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) has worked with school districts from across San Diego County in adopting farm to school practices. CHIP will build upon past experience to accelerate and expand regional participation in farm to school. The San Diego County Farm to School Taskforce serves as the “go to” body for farm to school in San Diego County. CHIP will continue to promote collaboration and leverage activities through the Farm to School Taskforce. Activities will focus on shared product

sourcing, best practice sharing, and collective problem solving related to farm to school. CHIP will recruit 20 new local and regional growers to support farm to school and provide direct one-on-one technical assistance to two districts in the development of three-year farm to school plans. To further support efforts, CHIP will host its local produce showcase and release its annual “State of Farm to School in San Diego County” report.

### **North Coast Opportunities, Inc.**

*Ukiah, California*

*Grant Type: Support Service; 100,000*

North Coast Opportunities (NCO) has made great strides toward developing a strong farm to school value chain. Now the greatest gaps lie in procuring local foods and increasing participation in school meals. NCO will work with four middle schools and three educational farms to promote and market the school meal program to students, parents, and the broader community. The project will develop stronger procurement channels while students and parents learn where food comes from and meet the people that grow and cook it for school meals. Activities will include upgrading farm infrastructure to build farm to school production capacity; organizing farm field trips and family farm work days; delivering nutrition education and taste tests to students; working with student councils to develop contests and a marketing campaign; coordinating Meet the Farmers, Meet the Cooks tasting events for parents; organizing networking for food service directors; hosting a food forum for schools and farmers; and conducting a community-wide marketing campaign.

### **Mt. Diablo Unified School District, California**

*Concord, California*

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

Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) is partnering with community organizations to increase procurement of local foods for school meals and adopt comprehensive elementary health and nutrition education that satisfies the goals of the MDUSD's Student Wellness Policy. A key part of this planning phase is adapting and developing elementary curriculum that aligns with Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Such curriculum may benefit school districts across the country in the 45 states that have adopted Common Core State Standards and the 26 plus states that support the Next Generation Science Standards.

### **Mid Klamath Watershed Council, California**

*Orleans, California*

*Grant Type: Support Service: \$99,728*

The Klamath Roots Food Project is part of a Klamath Basin-wide effort to reverse trends of high rates of poverty, food insecurity, diabetes, obesity, and depression and develop a sustainable food system through education, community collaboration, and hands-on stewardship. The goals are to increase access to and consumption of traditional foods (fish, nuts, berries, and game) and fresh, locally grown, fruit and vegetables in the public schools and to increase youth engagement in their local food systems. The project involves approximately 330 underserved youth in seven rural schools, 84% of whom qualify for free or reduced price meals and approximately 62% of whom are Native American. The project is designed to nourish health, improve self-confidence, revitalize culture, improve the natural environment, and provide healthy meals to improve school performance.

## COLORADO

### **Mancos Conservation District**

*Mancos, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$97,683*

The Local Foods4Local Schools project serves a rural area consisting of Montezuma and La Plata counties, including two reservations. The project will develop a new model for school-based production through hiring of a school production manager and production coordinator to cultivate a farm plot on school district property; support the development of a producer cooperative regional aggregation and distribution system to create a sustainable infrastructure to support procurement of local foods in local schools and beyond; provide training and technical assistance to school districts and producers to build their capacity to engage in institutional bidding and procurement activities; and engage students in experiential education farm, garden and nutrition activities. The school-based farm production and farmer cooperative regional aggregation and distribution system represent new initiatives that would be supported by this grant.

## CONNECTICUT

### **CT Food System Alliance, New Haven Ecology Project, Inc.**

*New Haven, Connecticut*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$14,613*

The Connecticut Food Systems Alliance and the Connecticut School Garden Resource Center will present a statewide conference in spring 2015. The theme will be “Cafeterias and School Gardens: Where Does Our Food Come From?” All over the state of Connecticut efforts in local food procurement, food education, and the creation of school gardens are taking shape and gaining momentum. We will strengthen the quality and impact of these isolated endeavors by bringing together over 25 farm to school and school garden practitioners, leaders, educators, and volunteers to share best practices, build professional networks, discuss new approaches and resources, explore evaluation techniques, and celebrate innovation and outstanding achievement.

## DELAWARE

### **Colonial School District**

*New Castle, Delaware*

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

Colonial School District is committed to connecting farms and school leaders to ensure that students have constant access to healthy local foods. This proposal is an opportunity to have students and staff directly engaged in the entire process of planning, growing and processing foods, creating new menus, and placing healthy foods directly into school nutrition programs. The district’s only high school, William Penn, has access to Historic Penn Farm (117+ acres of workable farm land). Here, students will grow crops and supply them directly into school cafeteria breakfast and lunch programs.

## GEORGIA

### **Tift County School System**

*Tifton, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$39,947*

Tift County School System will build on its current efforts to provide agriculture and nutrition programs that are experiential, educational, and better connect local and regional food to students in the system's 13 schools. The program will provide a plan to increase local capacity, build community support, provide better metrics for existing efforts, establish baselines for future outcomes, and serve a variety of local fresh food throughout the school year. Proposed activities include retrofitting a school bus to serve as a farm bus/rolling classroom, retrofitting the canning plant to be able to preserve local tomatoes, and irrigating the school farm to expand the growing season and increase yield.

### **Georgia Organics, Inc.**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

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

The Georgia Organics proposal addresses the rising demand for farm to school and need for comprehensive showcase programs by placing more "boots on the ground" through FoodCorps service members in three target communities. These service members will be embedded with school and community partners to create model farm to school programs that will increase local food procurement, integrate food education, and establish school garden programs. This project will be paired with a formative and summative evaluation to determine the impacts of behavioral interventions such as taste tests, gardening and hands-on cooking, as well as best practices for replication.

## HAWAII

### **The Kohala Center, Inc.**

*Kamuela, Hawaii*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,991*

The Kohala Center's project includes initiatives to increase the number of schools participating in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and the amount of local food sourced by Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program schools; building relationships between school food purchasers, local distributors, and local farmers; developing a "Hawai'i K-8 Farm to School Common Core/STEM Curriculum" that aligns garden-based learning and nutrition/food/agricultural education with the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards (STEM); and strengthening the capacity and impact of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui, a statewide network of farm to school stakeholders.

## IDAHO

### **Idaho State Department of Agriculture**

*Boise, Idaho*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event - State; \$18,028*

Funding from this grant will support four seminars across the state designed to increase use of local foods on school lunch menus. The first conference will be held in February for producers who would like to learn more about marketing to school foodservice, including procurement, nutrition standards, food safety requirements, and the bid process. In the summer of 2015, three regional workshops will be held across the state to help school foodservice personnel find ways to incorporate more local foods into

their menus. The workshops will include farm tours, seasonality issues, use of geographic preference in bids, recipe ideas, menu development, and hands on skill development to utilize more fresh foods in school kitchens.

## ILLINOIS

### **Southern Illinois University, Board of Trustees**

*Carbondale, Illinois*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event - State; \$24,929*

Southern Illinois University will be partnering with the Illinois Farmers Market Association, University of Illinois Extension, and the Illinois State Board of Education to host regional farm to school conferences in Carbondale, Springfield, and Chicago. The conferences will speak to two key stakeholders in the movement: farmers and school foodservice managers. Topics will include economic opportunities for local farmers; education on the importance and requirements for safe food handling, including Good Handling Practices and Good Agricultural Practices; cooking demonstrations by professional chefs; and information concerning the rules and regulations of local food procurement at schools. We anticipate reaching a minimum of 75-100 small and medium size farms throughout the state, as well as 100-150 school foodservice managers.

## INDIANA

### **The National FFA Organization**

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$50,000*

To revitalize a sustainable and affordable food system the world needs to cultivate a new generation of farmers and quickly. Through the FFA farm to school regional event, attendees will be provided an opportunity for developing synergistic partnerships to advance farm to school efforts. The event will bring together agriculture educators, FFA state staff, school cafeteria representatives, and farm to school trainers to develop a regional and/or state-wide strategy that will help to grow the next generation of farmers and increase the amount of local foods served in school cafeterias through youth producers. Participants will be challenged to create partnerships at the state, regional and local level to support farm to school efforts; connect local youth producers/FFA members to school food buyers; and identify funding opportunities to support farm to school operations.

### **This Old Farm, Inc.**

*Colfax, Indiana*

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

This Old Farm, Inc. will concentrate on the production and procurement of local products for a growing farm to school initiative in Indiana. This proposal works to expand a partnership between a local food hub or product aggregator, This Old Farm, and two separate pilot school corporations, one rural and one urban. The proposal has two main objectives: producer education from crop planning to food safety training and processing/portion control for ease in use by food service.

## KANSAS

### **Kansas State Department of Education**

*Topeka, Kansas*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,990*

The Kansas State Department of Education Child Nutrition and Wellness Team will host four farm to school networking and training workshops throughout the state to increase the availability of quality local foods in the school cafeteria by strengthening local farm to school supply chain networks, knowledge of food safety requirements, and school based procurement processes. The regional workshops will plant the idea to move beyond fruits and vegetables and explore options and opportunities across the school breakfast and lunch tray. Workshops will address the need for production, processing, and handling safety, and provide networking opportunities for local producers and school personnel.

## KENTUCKY

### **Kentucky Department of Agriculture**

*Frankfort, Kentucky*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$16,734*

In collaboration with Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department of Agriculture, we will provide statewide training focused on procuring local foods for child nutrition programs in Kentucky. This will be the first collaborative training effort on procurement with a focus on fresh local products furthering our farm to school efforts. We plan to offer full day trainings in eight distribution regions across the state. Upon completion of the training, participants will better understand basic procurement principles; understand the two main procurement methods; identify sources of local food; understand that there are multiple ways to source local products; and understand and feel comfortable using the geographic preference option.

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$71, 223*

Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) proposes to implement farm to school projects, while expanding statewide reach of the program, resulting in a broader understanding of the benefits, viability and sustainability of farm to school food systems in both targeted school systems and in the state as a whole. KDA will partner with producers, processors, school food service authorities, educators, food distributors, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, and other members of the Kentucky Farm to School Task Force to achieve this goal.

### **The Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, Inc.**

*Louisville, Kentucky*

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

The Food Literacy Project will utilize a working vegetable farm to unleash the joy and power of discovering real food through experiential education and youth development; family engagement; professional development; and marketing, outreach, and community engagement. The program will increase access to and demand for local foods among Jefferson County Public Schools with high free and reduced lunch populations, and share its program model with other school districts across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The project will inspire a new generation to build healthy relationships with food, farming, and the land as students, families, teachers and food service personnel actively engage in building a sustainable farm to school initiative by planting, harvesting, tasting, and developing recipes with farm-fresh foods.



### **Taylor County School District**

*Campbellsville, Kentucky*

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

This project will utilize a farm to school coordinator, along with community partnerships, to identify sources of fresh foods for the District Food Services. The project will lay the groundwork for a large school garden which will sell produce, grown by students, back to Food Services for use in the cafeteria. The project will educate students and parents about the health benefits of eating fresh locally grown foods. The planning year will provide the district with a detailed farm to school assessment which will lay the foundation for a large scale implementation of farm to school in later years. The goals of this project are to provide healthy food choices, educate students and parents, implement farm to school into the curriculum, and provide college/career readiness opportunities for students, both through the growing of food (agriculture) and the selling of food to Food Services and the public (business).

### **Owsley County School District**

*Booneville, Kentucky*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$79,750*

Integrating community, education, nutrition, and entrepreneurship, this project will serve students in grades Pre-K-12 in the Owsley County School District's Headstart, Elementary, and Middle/High Schools. Project funds will be used to purchase equipment needed to expand the number of acreage the district uses to grow fruits, diversify crops, and increase the amount of locally produced foods served in the schools' cafeterias. Funds will also support farm to school educational activities taking place during and after school.

## **LOUISIANA**

### **Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**

*Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,993*

The Louisiana State University AgCenter will host a statewide farm to school conference focusing on school-based child nutrition programs. The conference will be held in Alexandria, Louisiana to bring together school food service managers, farmers, food distributors, and others involved with Louisiana agriculture and healthy school menus. The conference and three regional follow-up working group meetings will provide opportunities for interested parties, including agriculture professionals, faith-based organizations, smaller nonprofits, private schools and others, to join the farm to school movement. The objectives include promoting awareness of the farm to school movement, providing information on local procurement, sharing knowledge of existing resources on school curricula, and highlighting current experiential nutrition-related activities with existing science, math, physical activity and language classes.

### **KIPP New Orleans Schools Inc.**

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

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

KIPP New Orleans Schools' School Food Authority, the Healthy School Foods Collaborative (HSFC), serves a range of independent charter schools and charter management organizations across the city of New Orleans. The HSFC will work to develop a plan for the implementation of a full farm to school model by researching and facilitating partnerships between all actors in the supply chain and developing best-practices based educational programming with a focus on local foods in schools.

## MAINE

### **Regional School Unit 18**

*Oakland, Maine*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,213*

Region School Unit (RSU) 18 recognizes that a student's ability to learn effectively and achieve high academic standards is directly related to optimal nutrition habits. Our rural school district is just beginning our journey of establishing a farm to school program that will benefit our 2,768 students in 8 schools with a free/reduced rate of 46.79%. The planning grant would help us establish an infrastructure for our farm to school program with the development of a Comprehensive Farm to School Implementation Plan. Currently, our program is based on an individual school and not districtwide. The planning grant would outline and complete a districtwide establishment of our farm to school program that will help our students learn and practice healthy lifestyles in their formative years.

### **Healthy Acadia**

*Bar Harbor, Maine*

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

"Downeast Farm to School – Enhancing Local Procurement in Washington County" will help to meet the health, nutrition, and economic needs of communities in a rural region, including two tribal communities, with high rates of free and reduced meals (63% across the county) and food insecurity. This project will increase access to healthy food for children across the region and will strengthen the farm economy. Specifically, it will improve distribution, storage, and processing systems that support local farms and food procurement efforts by schools. It will integrate nutrition policies and education in the school systems, providing engagement and learning among students around nutrition, agriculture, and foods. This is a highly collaborative project, bringing producers, schools, and other entities together to create positive change.

## MASSACHUSETTES

### **Northeast Regional Steering Committee, Franklin County Community Development Corp.**

*Greenfield, Massachusetts*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$50,000*

The Northeast Regional Steering Committee of the National Farm to School Network, in partnership with Farm to Institution New England and Farm to Institution New York State, will be hosting a Northeast Farm to School Leadership Summit in April 2015. The summit is an integral part of the 2015 Northeast Farm to Institution Conference, which will include colleges and hospitals as well as K-12 schools. The goal of the summit is to improve access of local foods in regional schools. The agenda will emphasize the importance of developing supply chain relationships through information sharing, networking, and professional development opportunities; include programming to connect schools with farmers, food processors, and manufacturers to serve regionally procured foods in school cafeterias; and include workshops and networking opportunities addressing needs for food, agriculture and nutrition-based standards-based curriculums and hands-on experiential activities.

### **Lowell Public Schools**

*Lowell, Massachusetts*

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

This project seeks to coordinate components of a farm to school program by providing staff to coordinate the project, promoting farm to school with students and the community, and developing a

Farm to School Task Force. Three school gardens will be built at high-needs elementary schools. Farm to school partnerships for middle school students will be increased to include 1,000 students visiting local farms and ten Farm to Table Healthy Eating and Cooking Workshops for 100 children and their families. The project will implement a “locally grown” food station at Lowell High School, which serves more than 3,000 students per year. Funds will be used for curriculum alignment to maximize classroom experiences with farm to school concepts as well as the development of 26 farm to school classroom toolkits. Project partnerships include Mill City Grows, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering food justice in Lowell. A second key partner is Project LEARN, a nonprofit that acts in a consultative fashion to build supplemental revenue and implement community relations for Lowell Public Schools.

## MICHIGAN

### **Detroit Public Schools, School District of the City of Detroit**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,117*

Detroit Public Schools Office of School Nutrition proposes a training program to develop members in high-tunnel farming, general farm management, and distribution and logistics of fresh produce. Ultimately, this program is designed to grow and distribute more local products to all 90 schools and create a model for other urban areas. High tunnel growing is a specialty method of growing that requires a different production processes than outdoor growing. Proper ventilation and soil management are key to the success in high tunnel growing and different from conventional farming. High tunnel growing can be beneficial in a farm to school program because it includes better heat gain, season extension, control of foliar diseases and an overall more controlled growing environment.

### **Waterford School District**

*Waterford, Michigan*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,227*

This project will institutionalize farm to school throughout the Waterford School District and the community. This will be accomplished by scaling up several initiatives already in place to varying degrees throughout the district, such as purchasing locally sourced, minimally processed foods; increasing the amount of locally sourced foods that are actually consumed by students; curricular integration of farm to school concepts; and experiential, hands-on learning in nutrition education and agriculture concepts.

## MINNESOTA

### **Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis County Community Health Board**

*Duluth, Minnesota*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,750*

The Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis County Community Health Board has distributed funding for farm to school as part of its strategy for the prevention of chronic disease through healthy eating since 2009. It is within these counties of the Western Lake Superior region that two school districts and Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (ELC) aim to collaborate, educate, and secure equipment that leverages existing farm to school programs and partnerships. This project will consolidate efforts to advance farm to school policy, systems and environmental change in our region through district-to-district and Wolf Ridge ELC collaboration. It will provide educational facilitation to bring agriculture home for our K-12 students. This project will help make efficient and safe the processes by which we bring local produce

into our cafeterias with equipment and a two-year logistics operation to identify relationships between these institutions, Superior Grown producers, and workers along the supply chain.

### **Minneapolis Public Schools, Special School District No. 1**

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$87,816*

The proposed “Minnesota Thursdays!” project of Minneapolis Public Schools is a fully-integrated, student-driven campaign to expand the district's local procurement and to assure that the community, students, staff, families, and partners know their farmers and know their food. The project will expand local options in school meals and include a coordinated, clear promotional campaign developed by Minneapolis Public Schools students.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### **My Brother’s Keeper, Incorporated**

*Ridgeland, Mississippi*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$25,000*

My Brother's Keeper, Incorporated, a non-profit community-based organization, in collaboration with the Mississippi Food Policy Council and Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mississippi Farm to Cafeteria Conference. This statewide event will provide up-to-date information on farm to cafeteria programming; educate participants about other institutional markets for farm produce; provide a forum for growers, purchasers, and other key stakeholders to connect, network, and further farm to cafeteria efforts; offer follow-up regional network meetings for conference participants to receive more hands-on farm to cafeteria programming and technical assistance; and serve as a catalyst to address legislative, cultural, and environmental barriers that oftentimes impede farm to cafeteria programming in Mississippi. This robust approach will prove instrumental in furthering the farm to cafeteria movement in Mississippi.

## **MISSOURI**

### **University of Missouri**

*Columbia, Missouri*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,920*

The University of Missouri Extension will partner with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri School Nutrition Association, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Springfield YMCA, Opa! Food Management company, Joplin Head Start, the Missouri Foundation for Health, and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to host a statewide farm to school conference. The goals of the one-day conference are to reduce barriers that prevent schools from procuring local products and to increase opportunities for schools and producers to establish mutually beneficial partnerships that result in increased access to local products in Missouri schools.

### **Columbia Public Schools**

*Columbia, Missouri*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,935*

Through this project, Columbia Public Schools will partner with University of Missouri Extension to expand and integrate its farm to school program through the following key activities: extend the use of local products by preserving the farm to school goods purchased for consumption during the non-

harvest seasons; increase the amount of farm to school items served in the cafeterias by seeking additional opportunities to purchase local goods; extend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program initiative to grades 6-7 in order to allow student tasting at all six middle schools; extend learning into the classroom through outside gardens that conserve on space and hydroponic gardens for inside use in the winter; promote a growing contest among middle school students to enhance learning; increase curriculum emphasis on the scientific aspects of growing produce and the health contributions of eating produce.

## MONTANA

### **Inter-tribal Ag Council**

*Billings, Montana*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – National; \$50,000*

The Inter-tribal Agriculture Council will promote farm to school efforts in American Indian communities by including an expanded farm to school component as part of their annual membership meeting. This meeting draws hundreds of tribal food producers, agricultural professionals, and Native youth from across the nation. In addition to promoting enhanced understanding of farm to school programs and effective approaches for food service professionals, this event will allow targeted direct technical assistance and networking opportunities. An innovative multimedia youth project as part of the national event will engage high school students in the farm to school conversation and allow them to share their unique perspectives on food and agriculture with peers and food service professionals. Regional meetings will supplement this national event, allowing further opportunity for recruitment, outreach, and networking.

## NEVADA

### **Washoe County School District**

*Reno, Nevada*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$22,992*

The goal of the Washoe County School District Farm to School planning grant is to produce a comprehensive feasibility study to identify strengths, weaknesses, barriers, and opportunities in developing a farm to school program in Washoe County to serve more than 62,900 Kindergarten through 12th grade students. The main objective of the study will be to determine program logistics and cost analysis for implementing all aspects of a farm to school program. The key outcome is a comprehensive study that will provide a platform to design and develop a final farm to school implementation plan which will support the District's Board of Trustees' policy for nutrition and wellness guidelines.

## NEW MEXICO

### **Farm to Table**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event - Regional; \$39,926*

The New Mexico and Southwest Region Farm to Cafeteria Procurement Training Program aims to increase local school food purchasing through procurement trainings. The program will consist of nine procurement trainings held across New Mexico that will benefit a minimum of 300 individuals throughout the Southwest region (New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Sovereign Nations). The

trainings highlight the critical role of procurement teams: food service directors, procurement office specialists, kitchen managers and staff, state agency and tribal department staff, and non-profit and community partners. Trainings focus on procurement basics, best practices and tips for local food procurement, hands-on activities related to improving solicitations for local vendors, putting geographic preference to use, and creating bid specifications. The Farm to Cafeteria Procurement Training Program has great potential to positively impact farm to school activities and procurement systems for public institutions throughout the Southwest region.

### **Magdalena Municipal School District**

*Magdalena, New Mexico*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,947*

The Magdalena Farm to School Program proposes to connect Magdalena Municipal School District with local farmers, producers, and supply chain partners to provide fresh, local produce to every student in the district. The current project partners include a local organization, Healthy Kids, Socorro County, devoted to improving the health of the children in their communities by connecting farmers to schools and a local organic farmer who will teach an organic gardening elective course at the high school for the 2014-15 school year, in which the students will directly be involved in providing fresh produce to their school cafeteria.

## **NEW YORK**

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County**

*Binghamton, New York*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$19,689*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County will partner with the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program and New York State Farm Bureau to train 100 K-12 educators across New York state on successful integration of the Food, Land & People curriculum with Common Core Standards. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County will implement three-day regional trainings across the state equipping educators with the skills and resources to implement an agriculturally-based curriculum into existing educational standards with support from both the agricultural community and education. A comprehensive approach to the trainings will feature farm tours, an introduction to the curriculum and associated resources, educator and farmer panels, and connections with potential partners and outside resources, culminating with the opportunity to craft lessons to use in the classroom the following school year.

### **Watertown City School District**

*Watertown, New York*

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

The Watertown City School District's Growing Our Own Farm to School Planning project will build on the strong commitment of the Farm to School Committee and the established partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County to fulfill the mission of incorporating locally grown foods into a healthy meal program to improve student health and link nutrition to lifelong learning while simultaneously benefiting the community and local farmers

## **Saranac Lake Central School District**

*Saranac Lake, New York*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,754*

The Saranac Lake Central School District, in partnership with Lake Placid Central School District, proposes a farm to school planning project with the following objectives: develop the capacity to design the program and complete the implementation plan; implement new procurement policies that reflect the goal of having 15% of cafeteria produce come from local sources; acquire needed equipment for preserving produce so it is available year-round; and to develop a plan to integrate educational curriculum, school gardens, nutrition, and school cafeteria offerings. Activities will be conducted within the Adirondack Farm to School Initiative, which includes community participation from Paul Smith's College, the North Country Healthy Heart Network, the Adirondack North Country Association, the Wild Center, and garden club and food service representatives from area school districts. This planning project will build a strong and informed foundation for a sustainable farm to school program that is replicable in other school districts.

## **New York City Department of Education, Office of School Food**

*New York, New York*

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

The New York City Student Farmer's Program involves increasing the knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm about fresh produce and other foods for school age children in New York City public schools. We plan to accomplish this by: training students in gardening, farming, aquaponics, the culinary arts, and providing education on healthy eating; developing relationships between farmers and students and developing partnerships between farmers and schools; supporting schools, educators and children in how to make healthy food choices; and increasing the percentage of local and regional food products available to New York City public school students.

## **Buffalo Public Schools, Board of Education**

*Buffalo, New York*

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

The Buffalo City School District serves over 34,000 students in 56 schools, with 100% participation in the free and reduced meal program through the Community Eligibility Option. The City of Buffalo is nested in a region rich in agricultural production and is supported by a community dedicated to increasing access to healthy foods by its children while simultaneously strengthening the regional food system. This planning grant will be used to identify systems and procedures for procurement of locally grown farm goods while encouraging the consumption of these local foods by Buffalo Public School students. Youth leaders, students, parents, teachers, food service staff, farmers, and food distributors will have an active role in developing the farm to school plan in collaboration with the project partners: the Buffalo City School District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, the Massachusetts Avenue Project, and Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services**

*Raleigh, North Carolina*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,978*

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will partner with the North Carolina Department of Instruction in an effort to increase the purchase of local foods. A series of eight "Procuring Local Foods" workshops will be held across the state, reaching public, private and charter



schools. Participants in these workshops will learn how to successfully procure local foods (including meat, dairy and produce) following USDA guidelines.

### **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

*Cherokee, North Carolina*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,000*

The proposed project will span two years and enable the Cherokee Choices, in conjunction with the Cherokee Central School (CCS) system and other partners, to procure and serve more local food through the CCS Child Nutrition Program; create infrastructure for local food procurement and sustainable food production on campus; continue and expand educational and learning opportunities for K-12 students, teachers, and school staff associated with healthy food systems; and strengthen the local and regional food system to better serve institutions such as schools.

### **Working Landscapes**

*Warrenton, North Carolina*

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

Working Landscapes' Chopped Produce Initiative will make locally-grown vegetables available to students throughout our predominantly rural, economically-distressed region. Through this project, small-scale, local farmers—including minority farmers—will be able to sell to area schools. Produce that they raise, such as collard greens and cabbage, will be chopped and bagged at Working Landscapes' newly developed processing facility. When the produce is delivered to schools, it will be accompanied by hands-on educational programming aimed at boosting student interest in, and consumption of, healthy local foods.

## **OHIO**

### **The Ohio State University Extension**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event - State; \$24,992*

The Ohio State University Extension will offer a statewide conference, "Local Foods across the School Meal Tray." Focusing on procurement methods, the conference will help food service professionals learn how to obtain local foods and help producers learn how to better market products to schools. It will feature speakers from producer associations, state agencies, and the Ohio State University Extension. In breakout sessions, specialists and school professionals from throughout Ohio will address types of foods suitable "across the meal tray" and best practices (procurement methods, "Smarter Lunchrooms," food safety, and classroom activities) "across the school day." Product category sessions will highlight what can be done to make foods more marketable to schools, new ways to serve traditional products, and ways to incorporate foods from various categories. Online marketing tools to develop connections between producers/distributors and school buyers will also be demonstrated.

### **Stark County Educational Service Center**

*Canton, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,831*

The Stark County Educational Service Center (Stark ESC) seeks a farm to school planning grant benefiting 36,554 students in eight districts located in rural, urban, and USDA designated food deserts in Stark County, Northeastern Ohio. Of these students, 43% qualify for free and reduced lunch, and represent 58% of enrolled students in the county school system. Stark ESC is working with 12 participating school districts to connect food, farms, schools, and communities in a collaborative effort that establishes a



consistent and sustainable plan for local foods procurement, nutrition, wellness, healthy choices, food system education, and community food literacy as part of its farm to school vision. Stark ESC has no current county or district implementation plans, with no branded farm to school activities or outreach. This grant would support the Stark ESC vision and the included districts' desire to include the farm to school program into its cooperative model.

### **Rural Action, Inc.**

*The Plains, Ohio*

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

In "Farm to Institution to Schools: Connecting Value Chain Partners for Appalachian Ohio Schools," Rural Action, Inc. will work with a network of six rural school districts to overcome fresh, local product preparation barriers by collaborating with Hocking College to provide centralized preparation work as part of culinary arts student lab experience. Fresh produce from the Chesterhill Produce Auction will be purchased by schools, delivered to Hocking College, prepared and preserved using flash freezing as part of training hours, and sent to participating schools for use in dining service menus throughout the week. Hocking College will provide training for in-house preparation of fresh, local products in K-12 school cafeterias for expanded school capacity. School administration will receive technical assistance on local production through experiential learning opportunities at participating farms. Preparation and preserving capacity at Hocking College will increase availability and purchasing of local products.

### **Akron City School District**

*Akron, Ohio*

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

Akron Public Schools seeks to establish a farm to school program which will ultimately serve all 22,000 students in this urban Ohio district. In recent years, the district has made some effort to provide healthier meal options for students, and the goal is to increase the amount of fresh local fruits and vegetables to help improve students' health, quality of life and longevity. Curriculum will be developed to align with the concept of making healthy choices, the importance of eating locally grown foods, and the benefits that sustainable farming bring to people and the environment. Among other partners, the district will collaborate with Hattie Larlham Community Services which has three years of organic farming experience in the Akron area.

### **Springfield City School District**

*Springfield, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,760*

Spearheaded by the Springfield City Schools (SCSD), an urban district with 8,000 students, the Springfield Grows Farm to School Initiative will contribute to a more economically stable, academically strong, physically healthier, and food secure community. This will be accomplished through two overarching goals—to support the academic, social, and career success of youth through project-based learning through agriculture, and to develop an integrated local food system that links local producers with the various SCSD food programs. The grant will accelerate the success of the initiative by providing the initial support to retain a part-time project coordinator to ensure the development of a stakeholder team and a strategic plan that ensures an integrated local food system. A part-time farm manager will be retained to experiment with and evaluate project-based learning opportunities that connect to the Common Core standards in three pilot schools before the project is scaled up to include the remaining 12 buildings in the district.

## OKLAHOMA

### **Stilwell Public Schools**

*Stilwell, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$41,535*

Stilwell Public Schools (SPS) serves 1,460 high-need students living in and around Stilwell, Oklahoma, “The Most Cherokee Community in the USA.” A comprehensive farm to school program has long been on the radar of district-wide improvement, and the foundation has been laid. SPS updated the school meal program in 2012, contracting with Sodexo Food Services to ensure federal nutritional guidelines are reliably met. By formalizing the meal-creation process, this re-vamped structure will facilitate the ongoing incorporation of local produce; providing opportunities for Stilwell’s farms to deliver a wide-variety of vegetables and fruits that can be incorporated monthly into school meals.

## OREGON

### **Corvallis Environmental Center**

*Corvallis, Oregon*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,112*

The Corvallis Farm to School Program is working to provide the Corvallis School District with the input and support needed to institutionalize a sustainable farm to school program within the district that focuses on procurement of local foods, integrated education programs, and outreach to students and families. Initiated in 2011, the Corvallis Farm to School Program increases the use of local foods, encourages children to make healthy eating choices and supports regional farmers.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### **The Food Trust**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$38,443*

The Food Trust proposes to convene a Mid-Atlantic regional farm to school conference, focused on improving supply chains through a day of procurement training, discussion, and networking. “Field to Tray: Strengthening Farm to School Local Food Purchasing in the Mid-Atlantic,” will bring together state agencies, food service directors, growers, suppliers, and others to envision and plan enhanced farm to school purchasing practices, benefitting children and farmers across the region. “Field to Tray’s” objectives are capacity-building among stakeholders to facilitate local food procurement practices on the ground; strengthening connections among supply chain players to create new and lasting business relationships and; creation of a Mid-Atlantic Farm to School Supply Chain Working Group comprised of school food buyers, farmers, distributors and other suppliers, and other farm to school stakeholders, whose task will be to take the conversation, problem-solving, and networking into the future.

### **Northern York County School District**

*Dillsburg, Pennsylvania*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,940*

The South Central Pennsylvania Harvest Hub is a solution for bridging schools and farms across rural regions of our Commonwealth, both physically and virtually. This is accomplished by connecting produce and goods from local growers to a "consortium" of 42 schools and nearly 25,000 students. Serving schools across three counties, this model has garnered support from farmers' groups, Pennsylvania's

Departments of Agriculture and Education, and seven school districts as a means to financially support the local agricultural community while improving student health and strengthening agricultural education. This sustainable model has the ability to expand into urban centers, student training and internship opportunities, faith-based and emergency feeding programs, and other farm-to-institution applications.

### **Common Market Philadelphia, Inc.**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$93,600*

Common Market Philadelphia's "An Apple a Day" Program seeks to make nutritious local fruits and vegetables a permanent part of meals at 18 Philadelphia public charter schools serving over 14,000 students. Common Market, a trusted nonprofit distributor of local foods, will act as a bridge between Pennsylvania family farms, a small Pennsylvania value-added processor, and public charter schools. Its staff will provide food safety, product development, packaging, educational, marketing, planning, ordering and delivery support to farm and school food service partners. The program will move over 1.5 million whole local apples and 1.7 million packages of sliced local apples from sustainable family farms to 14,700 Philadelphia students, 74% of whom are enrolled in the free and reduced price meal program. "An Apple a Day" will increase school food services' capacity to provide and work with local sustainable produce, laying the foundation for a sustained and meaningful farm to school program.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **Clemson University**

*Clemson, South Carolina*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$20,588*

Clemson University will host a farm to school conference focusing on the economic impact of farm to school in South Carolina, based on an evaluation from the 2011 South Carolina farm to school pilot program. The primary goal of the conference is to educate extension agents on the importance and the potential impact of their role as change agents in the farm to school initiative. Presenters will provide an overview of how extension agents can further the farm to school movement from an agricultural perspective and will include region-specific strategies. The conference will provide the first step in establishing a foundation for extension agents to diffuse the economic impact of farm to school in South Carolina. The event will include extension agents working in the areas of fruits, vegetables, dairy, beef, poultry, food safety, and nutrition.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

### **Inter Tribal Buffalo Council**

*Rapid City, South Dakota*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,189*

The project will assist schools on Tribal Reservations throughout South Dakota, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. The project will focus on strategic planning and infrastructure assessments to determine schools' capacity to increase access to local and regional foods, with an emphasis on locally raised bison. The project will also focus on assisting schools to develop or enhance garden programs.

## TENNESSEE

### **Murfreesboro City Schools**

*Murfreesboro, Tennessee*

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

Murfreesboro City Schools Farm to School Program identifies sources of locally grown food, procures it, and integrates it into the School Lunch Program; educates students and staff about the process that moves food from farm to table; expands school gardens; conducts healthy food preparation classes; carries out taste tests; and develops a plan to eliminate food deserts. Through the farm to school program, Murfreesboro City Schools forms a solid foundation on which good nutritional practices and health habits will be built.

## TEXAS

### **Dallas Independent School District**

*Dallas, Texas*

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

Dallas Independent School District's (ISD) Farm to School Implementation Project has three areas of focus. First, the district will encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables by expanding and building upon our existing Harvest of the Month promotional activities, taste tests, distribution of fresh produce at schools and other activities which promote the benefits of locally grown products. Second, the district will expand experiential and agricultural based learning opportunities through the expansion of school gardens, field trips and teacher trainings to integrate farm to school into the curriculum and classrooms. Lastly, we will expand our supply chain by increasing our existing pool of local farmers who can produce items for Dallas ISD consumption.

## VERMONT

### **Shelburne Farms (Vermont FEED)**

*Shelburne, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,999*

The grant to Vermont FEED will provide training and professional development services to school teams (including administrators, teachers, parents and food service), farm to school practitioners, and school food staff from across the Northeast to remove barriers to serving local food in school cafeterias and to incorporate hands on food, farm, and nutrition activities into school curriculum and nutrition programs. The components of this grant are: establish a farm to school institute that provides professional development for 10 school teams from among the Northeast states; develop a peer-to-peer learning community of farm to school practitioners from the Northeast focused on farm to school best practices; and provide training to 200 Vermont school food service staff to support serving local and healthy foods to students. Vermont FEED will offer a series of school food service workshops in partnership with the New England Culinary Institute and the School Nutrition Association-VT that will provide professional instruction in knife use, scratch-cooking techniques, and nutrition and procurement guidelines.

## VIRGINIA

### **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

*Richmond, Virginia*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$20,750*

Virginia has embraced the farm to school effort since 2007 when Virginia’s General Assembly passed a House Joint Resolution requesting that partner organizations work towards advancing farm to school initiatives in the Commonwealth. Through marketing and education, including organizing Virginia’s Farm to School Week each November, successful strides have been made to help connect fresh, healthful food from local farms to schools. This grant provides the opportunity to increase substantially the number of school systems incorporating “Virginia Grown” products into school menus while at the same time encouraging reliable, ongoing markets to support Virginia’s agricultural economy. Conference educational programs will feature procurement training, capacity building, supply chain distribution, food safety, school gardens, and nutrition education. Most importantly, this conference will provide a venue to showcase, network, and inspire. The conference seeks to provide a centralized voice in the Commonwealth that will create a more vibrant and sustainable farm to school program in Virginia.

### **Appalachian Sustainable Development**

*Abingdon, Virginia*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,179*

This project will leverage Appalachian Sustainable Development’s infrastructure and expertise in market and farmer development and its relationships with schools to increase the flow of local produce into three local school systems in southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee. This project will lay the foundation for a region-wide network of school systems that will increase the ability to engage regional farmers. At the end of this project, school systems will be able to rely on consistent, Good Agriculture Practices certified supply from regional farmers and will be able to place orders online and receive timely deliveries. Farmers will have gained access to these markets and will be engaged in annual planning to ensure their ability to consistently fill school system demand. Elementary and middle school children and their parents will have had repeated exposure to fresh healthy foods and nutrition information in ways that encourage them to try new things and seek out healthier food.

### **Pulaski County Public Schools**

*Pulaski, Virginia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,415*

Pulaski County Public Schools has been sowing the seeds for a farm to school initiative for over a year. The project will help this eight-school district move from vision to practice, benefiting 4,450 students in a rural area of southwestern Virginia. Pulaski County is located in central Appalachia, part of a region called the New River Valley, so-named after the New, a federally designated American Heritage River. Agriculture and natural resources play an important role in Pulaski's heritage, yet numerous socio-economic factors have led families away from healthy foods. The farm to school plan will help promote health and wellness throughout the county and the region.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

### **U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education**

*Charlotte Amalie, Virgin Islands*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$21,698*

The Virgin Island (VI) Department of Education will be hosting the first territorial farm to school conference entitled “Linking the VI Chain.” The one day conference will take place in March 2015 and will invite 100 farmers, principals, teachers, and school lunch workers throughout the territory who are ready to work with, or are preparing to work with, the farm to school initiative. The primary goals of the conference are to: foster communication between the school food authorities and farmers to increase the number of available and trained farmers who can participate in the farm to school initiative; educate principals, teachers, school lunch workers, and other individuals within the education system on the steps and processes for implementing farm to school within the curriculum of their respective schools; and communicate the shared vision of the territory-wide farm to school initiative to those parties who are prepared to be a part of the territory-wide initiative.

## UTAH

### **Utah State Office of Education**

*Salt Lake City, Utah*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$17,200*

As the farm to school movement gains momentum in Utah, the State Office of Education has identified a need for training in the areas of procurement, food safety, and culinary skills when using local products. This event will provide intensive two-day training to school nutrition directors and managers, focusing exclusively on farm to school topics. Specific sessions during the event will include a procurement training focused on writing bid specifications for local products, a farm tour to discuss Good Agricultural Practices on the farm, a culinary training focusing on preparing local products, a training outlining marketing farm to school activities, and a meet and greet for local producers and nutrition directors. The primary goal of this training will be to increase the competency of food service directors from across the state of Utah in sourcing, procuring, marketing, and serving local foods in the school meals programs.

## WASHINGTON

### **Washington State Department of Agriculture**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,970*

Washington State Department of Agriculture will work with partners to host the first statewide farm to school conference in spring 2015. The one and a half day event will build on the momentum of successful farm to school efforts and aim to initiate and reinvigorate buyer, seller, distributor, processor, and community partner relationships. Our shared questions are now complex ones relating to the procurement process, food safety, food hubs and other supply chain solutions, and policies that support this work. The conference will explore these and other topics through workshops on multi-level policy efforts, cross-sector collaboration, procurement, nutrition standards, and food safety; celebration, showcases, and networking for farms, vendors, schools and community partners; supply chain panels with schools and their farm, processor, food hub and distributor partners; and working groups to discuss state-level research findings, identify opportunities and needs for processing, storage, aggregation and distribution, and to strengthen capacity and relationships.

## **Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network**

*Mount Vernon, Washington*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$88,444*

This project aims to increase local food procurement and access to local food by implementing a more regional and seasonal based Harvest of the Month program and by strengthening two regional farm to school networks in the Central and Northwest regions of Washington. The project will provide educational tools, professional development, networking opportunities, field trips, and technical training to enhance existing farm to school programs. The project will establish regional farm to school networks to support new partnerships with local farms and food hubs and increase procurement of local food in schools.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **West Virginia Department of Education**

*Charleston, West Virginia*

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

The West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition and the West Virginia Farm to School Community Development Group believe that creating and maintaining vibrant local food systems require sufficient infrastructure to more effectively move food from farms to school cafeterias. The development of regional food hubs is essential both to eliminate the barriers expressed by county food service directors and provide the distribution infrastructure necessary for small and mid-size farmers to respond to the growing demand for local food. These regional hubs would establish economies of scales that allow schools to purchase local products at an affordable cost, while at the same time maintaining a profit margin for the local farmer.

## **WISCONSIN**

### **Sparta Area School District**

*Sparta, Wisconsin*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,032*

The Sparta Area School District project will increase access to fresh produce to students who attend schools in the Sparta, Tomah, and Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton school districts and further develop nutritional eating practices. The project will: develop a plan to serve more locally and regionally procured meats, grains and produce utilizing existing distributors, local farmers and school gardens; establish a procurement plan that incorporates an RFP process for local food producers to supply produce that will maximize the buying power of the coalition while following safety and environmental practices; educate students on local and regional produce choices; equip school kitchens with the equipment and staffs with the tools and knowledge needed to prepare fresh local produce; and develop education and outreach materials to promote the farm to school and harvest of the month programs.

### **Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation**

*Green Bay, Wisconsin*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$95,564*

This project implements a four-pronged approach to farm to school (program sustainability, local food procurement, nutrition education through a Harvest of the Month framework, and school gardening) in eight public school districts in the Greater Green Bay Area. The proposed project will utilize three key strategies to increase local food procurement in the Green Bay Area Public School District (GBAPSD): the

launch of a virtual Green Bay Food Hub to automate the financial and administrative aspects of local food procurement; development of a farmers cooperative and a supply chain specific to GBAPSD; and a focus on building district capacity to process, store and menu fresh produce.

### **Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin**

*Oneida, Wisconsin*

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

The project proposed will establish an aquaponics food production system, capable of annually producing fish and supplying fresh produce year round. The aquaponics food system will become an anchor for education through tours, enhance curriculum for food systems, and offer college academic credit for the Oneida High School seniors in partnership with Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College. Youth will experience activities associated with healthy foods, including harvesting traditional corn at an organic farm, picking berries at an orchard and preserving them at the cannery, and developing a healthy menu for the school feast day.

## **WYOMING**

### **Wyoming Department of Education**

*Cheyenne, Wyoming*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$65,000*

Wyoming has plans for connecting Wyoming producers with Wyoming schools. The Wyoming Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs will work with schools, producers, and other related entities (Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Business Council, Ag in the Classroom, and the University of Wyoming Agriculture Extension Office) to provide training and technical support in a continuing effort to improve access to local foods in eligible schools across Wyoming. The training and technical support will provide education and information through regional training sessions, and webinars.