USDA Farm to School 2012 Grant Awards

November 14, 2012

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 the first class of grantees. (The descriptions below were adapted from grant applications and in some cases have been edited by USDA staff.)

ARIZONA

Community Food Bank, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$98,107
Tucson, Arizona
The Community Food Bank (CFB) will partner with eleven schools within the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) and one school within the San Xavier School District to continue to bring local, healthy foods into their cafeterias. The CFB has already established school gardens at seven of the participating schools, and plans on establishing gardens at the remaining schools. CFB will facilitate meetings between local producers with which they have strong partnerships and the participating schools. In these meetings, TUSD and San Xavier School District will build upon and improve their local produce procurement processes, and further develop their established nutrient-based menu planning. Our project has three areas of focus: food production and garden-based education; district-level changes to work with local producers; and farm to school partnership on Tohono O'odham Nation.

ARKANSAS

Fayetteville School District #1
Implementation: Schools
$99,058
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Fayetteville Public Schools (FPS) has been developing a farm to school program since 2008. Experience with local procurement and educational programming provides a strong foundation for FPS to expand and institutionalize a sustainable farm to school program. The proposed project will build on Fayetteville Public Schools' past experience and existing community partnerships to develop a comprehensive farm to school program that will have dual health/wellness and economic prosperity impacts. The program will increase farm to school awareness through educational events, experiential learning, and curriculum integration while simultaneously integrating activities related to sourcing local and regional foods into everyday workflows and meal preparation by food service staff. The program will provide culinary training and improve food processing capacity to ensure local products are utilized in school menus throughout the academic year on a regular basis. The program will also provide educational and networking opportunities for existing and future producers.

Lawrence County School District
Planning
$45,000
Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
The Lawrence County District will lead a cluster planning project which is county-wide. The planning grant will involve three SFAs in four rural communities/schools. The project will be guided by a 22-member school and community organization team which will develop a "Code Green" comprehensive farm to school long-range plan by September, 2012. The plan will be implemented over a five-year period.

CALIFORNIA

Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Davis, California
The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) proposes to expand the Sonoma County Farm to School Program by educating students about healthy eating, nutrition, and local agriculture and increasing access to healthy, locally-sourced across the county. As the largest district in the county, Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) will pilot the project and work with CAFF, the Sonoma County Food Systems Alliance, and other partners to create the systems that will allow a number of small districts and farmers throughout the county to participate. There are 40 small school districts in Sonoma County, and many of them are looking to SRCS and CAFF to set up the program. The project develops a Harvest of the Month Tasting Kit program (HOTM) that delivers packages of fresh, locally-sourced fruits and vegetables, farmer profiles, and agriculture curriculum, and works with a local distributor to create a local line of produce to make it easier for school districts to source locally. By the end of the project, over 9000 students will have received HOTM education, and SRCS will have increased local purchasing by 10%.

Ventura Unified School District
Implementation: Schools
$90,289
Ventura, California
This project will implement a countywide school food purchasing and marketing program that increases the quantity and quality of fresh, seasonal, locally grown foods consumed by school children in Southern California and creates the organization, infrastructure and systems to sustain and expand the program as an economic enterprise for the long-term.

Julian Union School District
Planning
$32,871
Julian, California
Julian Union Elementary School District SFA serves two districts and four schools: Julian Elementary and Julian Junior High, of Julian Union, and Julian High and Ray Redding Continuation School, of Julian High School District. We have already implemented innovative programs that will support farm to school planning. We have a new school wellness policy which outlines specific goals, including sustainable school gardens, fresh fruits and vegetables daily, and nutrition education. Our school community enthusiastically supports farm to school; serving fresh, locally grown produce to our students at

breakfast, lunch, and snack time is the next logical step for our districts, and has become an overarching goal for our current garden program.

Chico Unified School District
Planning
$44,555
Chico, California
We are requesting funding to grow our existing farm to school resources and activities from a series of successful but disconnected and disparate activities into a comprehensive, integrated farm to school program. With grant funds, we will hire a coordinator who will convene a planning collaborative comprised of district educational and nutrition services personnel, California State University Chico's Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion, local growers and vendors, teachers in high school agriculture and culinary arts programs, and other partners to be identified. We will assess existing resources and infrastructure as well as needs and gaps related to farm to school. We will also seek professional development and training related to best practices in farm to school and preparation of locally sourced foods, increase our outreach and promotional efforts to target families whose first language is not English, and pilot components of our eventual full-scale farm to school plan (e.g, grow several different crops in small quantities on our district's Henshaw Farm to see which might be the most feasible for eventually supplying food to the cafeteria, and pilot menus and recipes using locally sourced products in our cafeteria).

Lemon Grove School District
Planning
$43,920
Lemon Grove, California
The Lemon Grove School District has already implemented policies and programs that support healthy nutrition and is well placed geographically for a farm to school program. San Diego County has 6,687 farms, more than any other county in the US. We participate on San Diego County's Farm to School Task Force and our efforts are congruent with the Counties Communities Putting Prevention to Work and a community Kaiser Healthy Eating Active Living grant. This fall we are opening a new middle school, which will be the pilot site for development of farm to school activities. Our Garden Club will be champions for information to be disseminated and displayed at school. They will develop posters and captions for the Principal's newsletter and menus, which along with student-produced broadcast segments will introduce new local produce to students. Our goal is to maximize use of local, minimally processed and fresh foods in school meals every day, first at the Academy and later throughout the District.

Lynwood Unified School District (USD)
Planning
$24,294
Lynwood, California
Lynwood USD is in the initial stages of farm to school planning. The district has begun to undertake measures to improve overall health of its students by incorporating salad bars into all the elementary schools. The district has embarked on many activities to increase awareness of food quality, nutrition, and origin among students, parents, and community. The next step in this plan is to continue to impress the importance of local food procurement on educators and other stakeholders by giving the district an opportunity to create a concrete plan for changing procurement strategy and nutrition education curriculum to reflect the importance of consuming locally.

COLORADO

Weld County School District 6
Implementation: Schools
$83,800
Greeley, Colorado
Weld County School District 6 (WCSD6) has a strong farm to school program that has been operational for several years. To bolster the program and to provide benefits to surrounding districts and institutional buyers, WCSD6 is pursuing a food hub concept. With the proper equipment and training, this would enable the school district to purchase local foods while in-season, minimally process them, and sell these easier-to-use items to other school districts. Because the smaller school districts surrounding WCSD6 do not have the buying power and equipment to make a farm to school program practical, WCSD6 being a food hub would assist in expanding farm to school regionally. In addition, WCSD6 will continue its marketing and evaluation efforts through this project. The district will hire a contractor to research, develop, and test evaluation protocols most appropriate for the school district and state of Colorado. These reliable and valid protocols will be shared statewide to get a collaborative effort across the state.

School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver
Implementation: Schools
$99,966
Denver, Colorado
The rest of the nation's public school systems are watching Denver closely. Our civic leaders have implemented some bold innovations and reforms that have proven successful in increasing student achievement and enrollment in Denver Public Schools (DPS). While Colorado as a state is known for its low rate of obesity in adults relative to the rest of the nation, childhood obesity rates in Colorado are increasing faster than those nationwide. In order to combat the childhood obesity issue, Denver Public Schools encourages students to eat more fruits and vegetables and move more (including movement through gardening). Denver is at the forefront of the local food movement and addressing this need and nowhere is this more evident than what is happening on our school grounds. We have successfully launched a farm to school model that can increase the capacity of our students to eat healthier foods and make healthier choices across the district. We envision a model that brings together schools, community partners and the DPS Food and Nutrition Services Department (FNS) that can work together and have positive implications on a national scale. The overall goals of DPS' Enterprise Management Department's farm to school project is provide Colorado grown products to Denver school children during lunch, to educate students on where their food comes from and how it is grown, and to ensure that the food coming from the urban farms is safe.

Weld County Re-8 Schools
Planning
$45,000
Fort Lupton, Colorado
The district has made some preliminary contact with local farms and would like to use this opportunity to strengthen the present agreements and bring in more farm partnerships. Through meetings and educational opportunities, the district hopes to develop these relationships. There is also a need to improve the kitchen facilities at Twombly Elementary in our district so that the school has the capacity to prepare, store and serve fresh local produce. Project funds will go to these needs with the goal of

doubling the current farm partnerships to four and developing new menu items to provide students with fresh local foods. The district is committed to sustaining these efforts through the District Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Council.

CONNECTICUT

City Seed, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$98,100
New Haven, Connecticut
City Seed, Inc., proposes to engage a procurement specialist to help New Haven School Food Programs determine and implement strategies that will dramatically increase the amount of regionally grown produce in the meals of over 20,900 urban public school students, nearly 80% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch. The procurement specialist will work under the direction of City Seed's Executive Director and Community Food Coordinator and alongside New Haven Public School (NHPS) Food Services Director and school food workers, NHPS dietician, FoodCorps members, Common Ground food service and educational staff, local farms and businesses, and members of the community to develop: ways of procuring more local food at prices that are fair to farms, processors, and schools; aggregation models that allow Common Ground Public Charter School and other institutions to partake in farm to school; processing needs and creative approaches to preserving in-season produce during public schools' summer vacation; distribution models that are logical and leverage existing resources; marketing and education strategies that include students, parents, teachers, administrators and food service workers; pre and post survey and evaluation tools; and, partners and collaborators within CT and bordering states.

DELAWARE

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$99,990
Hockessin, Delaware
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) is a 501c3 that works with schools to start vegetable gardening programs, and partners extensively with other aligned organizations. The project will positively influence students' health awareness/food literacy; knowledge of gardening, science, agriculture; and attitudes towards produce consumption through a "Food of the Month" marketing campaign that encourages consumption of produce in school cafeterias. An education cultivation program will engage students in hands-on gardening activities and science-based lessons, and will include healthy cooking demos and tastings. We will increase the amount of locally grown produce served in school cafeterias through via two types of "meet your farmer" events, such as a host a farmer and food service manager meet and greet. We will also coordinate student tastings with farmers. Finally, we will create a Delaware School Garden Network.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Central Kitchen
Implementation: All Others
$99,998
Washington, District of Columbia
Our proposed project, "Capacity for Change: Growing a Year-Round Farm to School Program," focuses on infrastructure development. "Capacity for Change" targets three areas of need that we have identified in our two full years of farm to school activities in DC Public Schools (DCPS): processing, storage, and packaging. Currently, our school food initiative serves 4,200 healthy, scratch-cooked meals each day, with more than 20% of our total product purchased from local farmers and growers. While our meals are prepared in the schools we serve, we process raw local product at an off-site kitchen facility leased by DC Central Kitchen. We want to obtain more of our school meal ingredients locally, but lack the ability to purchase, process, and store enough local products during their harvest season to ensure their use year-round. We plan to bolster our processing activities by purchasing cleaning, dicing, peeling, and chopping equipment along with renting additional freezer space. These items will allow us to demonstrate increased purchases of summer and fall local crops, increase our freezer storage capacity by 200%, and invest $165,000 in local farmers and growers during the grant period – an increase of 43% over 2011.

GEORGIA

Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Albany, Georgia
Southwest Georgia Project (SWGAP) proposes to launch a region-wide farm to school program beginning with Dougherty County School System, the largest system in the area. We have already provided produce and education in this system on a test basis, with positive reactions from students and staff. As a result of our work with black farmers and rural families in the area for the past 45 years, SWGAP has built a substantial network of local vegetable farmers and farmer cooperatives, as well as community contacts, which will enable us to increase the supply of fresh, locally grown food in schools. The project will also help small farmers and food entrepreneurs to prosper and generate jobs as we promote healthy eating among students. We have initiated and will continue nutrition education activities that include food tasting, tours of nearby farms, talking with farmers about how food is produced, class discussions about the elements and importance of healthy eating, and class units on how plants grow. This project is a component of our long-term goal to build a region-wide local food system based on small farmers and entrepreneurs.

Healthcare Central Georgia, Inc, dba Community Health Works
Implementation: All Others
$99,992
Macon, Georgia
The Peach County farm to school program intends to help Peach County Schools offer tasty and nutritious locally grown agricultural products to students once to twice per week in an effort to combat childhood obesity and support the local farming community. The program will achieve this overarching goal by accomplishing the following five objectives: improving food service infrastructure and training; facilitating local food procurement; educating Peach County students about healthy foods and activities;

and, promoting Peach County's farm to school efforts while developing the program's capacity for long-term sustainability.

Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Department
Planning
$30,675
Carrollton, Georgia
As the Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Director for the last 11 years, it has been my focus along with our system's administration to provide the best possible healthy school environment for our students and staff and that includes school nutrition. Upon receipt of a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant in 2009 we have increased our knowledge of the importance of serving fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as increased our understanding regarding how to implement more offerings into our school system. This knowledge and excitement leads us to increased planning and implementation of farm to school programs in the coming years.

HAWAII

Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School
Planning
$44,800
Laupahoehoe, Hawaii
LCPCS has an ambitious comprehensive environmental sustainability plan in which a key strand is to grow organic produce, cook and serve it in our cafeteria, and ultimately create a product for the open market. Specialized agriculture is a growing economic sector in our area. We will support local producers by establishing mechanisms to use their products in the school and will act as a catalyst for our student career paths in agriculture, culinary arts, and environmental jobs. In 2012/13 we will create a trial organic garden, coordinate with community organizations and volunteers, establish systems and protocols to bring our own and local products into the school, plan and trial school curricula for core subjects, nutrition and cooking, and prepare a comprehensive plan by September 2013 to implement the complete program in SY2013-14 including production of a commercial product with attending business and marketing curricula.

IDAHO

Jefferson Joint School District #251
Planning
$40,670
Rigby, Idaho
This project will provide an opportunity for Jefferson School District to bring farm to school to the district on a broader level by serving healthier meals and building relationships with the community and local producers. It also provides educational opportunities for students and staff, including training for food service personnel. Students will visits farms, taste test foods and learn about the ways their food is produced locally.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Schools, District 299
Implementation: Schools
$100,000
Chicago, Illinois
This project proposes a two-track approach to make more locally grown produce available in Chicago Public Schools, including implementing a school garden safety program and formalizing a locally farmed produce procurement program. The one-year project will make school-garden grown produce available on the menu and promote nutrition/gardening education in schools in addition to creating a sustainable procurement agreement with local farmers.

IOWA

Pathfinders Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Fairfield, Iowa
Hometown Harvest has been working to get more local food into school systems since Buy Fresh Buy Local arrived in 2005. Our mission is to cultivate a sustainable healthy food network by bringing together local producers and consumers in southeast Iowa. We have worked to educate our communities and expand the network of local food production through our region; launching school gardens and encouraging local food aggregation to school cafeterias. Our proposal is a result of many creative projects accomplished and many lessons learned. This year we will work in three main areas. We plan to expand our network of local food committees to 12 counties. We will begin processing local produce at two schools. The certified kitchen is available all summer and on weekends during the school year, and a certified cook is willing to come in for a day of processing with parents/volunteers. Finally, we will enlist time and energy from a few students (and their teacher) to put together a food production/demonstration garden for our region to visit and learn from.

KENTUCKY

Jefferson County Board of Education
Implementation: Schools
$100,000
Louisville, Kentucky
Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) intends to expand its current farm to school efforts. In keeping with the objectives of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program, the primary goal of the JCPS project is to improve access to local foods, particularly in schools with high free and reduced price lunch populations. The district plans to incorporate more local foods into the School Breakfast, National School Lunch, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable programs. JCPS will accomplish this goal through training of vendors, teachers and staff; cooperative planning with community stakeholders; expanding partnerships, and providing experiential nutrition education that gives students access to farm and garden-based activities. Sustainability will be addressed by establishing a local school garden support day with the Louisville Original Chef's group and the local Restaurant Association. Part of one day's proceeds from participating restaurants will go to school garden activities.

Fayette County Public Schools
Planning
$45,000
Lexington, Kentucky
The Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) district is the second largest school district in Kentucky, with approximately 38,000 students at 53 schools and 15 special programs. The district has one of the State's largest minority student populations (<42% of enrollment). About 50% of the district students are participating in the free/reduced school meals program. In September 2010, representatives from local organizations met to form a farm to school team. This team is committed to helping connect Lexington's schools and communities with locally and regionally produced food, and to the farmers and producers of that food. Joined to that is the commitment to help students understand the connections between local food and science, agriculture, nutrition, and health. While the farm to school team has been ambitious in its scope and success of its activities (11 schools/programs and thousands of students/community members reached), they have reached only 16% of district schools. Successfully scaling a program for a district of about 38,000 students requires careful planning, as well as time and resources.

MAINE

Portland Public Schools
Implementation: Schools
$99,895
Portland, Maine
Portland Maine Public Schools' (PPS) proposes to implement best practices to increase local products consumed by students in the school meal program through innovative purchasing strategies, innovative processing strategies, and increased experiential nutrition education. Our goals for this project are to increase the proportion of local food purchased by the PPS Food Services Program, increase student consumption of local food, and to increase public awareness and community engagement in our efforts. The project plan includes updating central kitchen equipment, certifications, and training in order to become a large volume processor of local foods. The project plan also includes a number of experiential learning activities such as school gardens, after-school agriculture clubs, school curriculum, taste testing, and chef-to-school. Finally, we propose to build awareness regarding the district's farm to school successes through the development of promotional materials, developing a media plan, and holding an annual "Local Food Show" open to the public exhibiting the farms, recipes, and student projects related to farm to school.

Maine School Administration District 12
Planning
$44,119
Jackman, Maine
The school will act as the coordinating agency to provide education, develop and sustain locally grown foods in collaboration with local volunteers and businesses for improved economic development, health and wellness of children and their families and to increase agricultural endeavors in the community. The key components will be to sustain a school garden, form a community planning and governing team, develop a buying cooperative and develop an educational toolkit guide and resource and procedures document to sustain the program.

MARYLAND

Baltimore City Public Schools
Implementation: Schools
$93,750
Baltimore, Maryland
With the "Great Kids Farm to School Initiative," Baltimore City Public Schools will expand three key programs that offer educational opportunities: healthy eating, local produce, and the school system's Great Kids Farm. The initiative will use new salad bars in school cafeterias as a vehicle for offering student-grown and locally-sourced ingredients; connect the new salad bars in these school communities to a comprehensive experiential education program called Healthy Eating, Healthy Living, which encompasses teacher professional development, curriculum delivery, and installation and facilitation of edible schoolyards that help supply the salad bars with produce; and will leverage the partnerships and resources within the Green Schools Network to pave the way for additional schools to have salad bars and participate in the Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program. Linking the educational opportunities at the Great Kids Farm to students at schools with salad bars serving fresh local produce will usher in a new era for Baltimore City Schools' farm to school efforts.

MASSACHUSETTS

Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Marlborough, Massachusetts
The Massachusetts Farm to School Project (MFTSP) was founded in 2004 as a grassroots initiative to increase consumption of locally grown foods in schools for the good of our children, our farms, and our communities. Operating under the fiscal sponsorship of the 501c3 Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation, MFTSP facilitates local foods procurement in schools, conducts research and documentation projects to support farm to school sales, engages in regional food systems planning, and coordinates food, agriculture and nutrition education programming in schools. The proposed project will span 18 months and will support facilitation and evaluation of farm to school innovations in three low-income districts, the creation of a statewide Farm to School Network to share best practices and promote learning opportunities, improved communication with child nutrition program administrators, culinary leadership training for school food service professionals and food processing innovations to make local foods available in schools year round. Successful project implementation will link local foods procurement with the efforts of food, farm, and nutrition educators and advocates to embed a diversity of farm to school activities in the public school environment.

Boston Public Schools
Implementation: Schools
$100,000
Boston, Massachusetts
Boston Public Schools (BPS) intends to expand student and community engagement through farm field trips, experiential learning opportunities, and community dinners, and also build cafeteria staff capacity through culinary training. The BPS Farm to School Initiative currently procures locally grown produce for all 44 full-service cafeteria schools across the district and serves over 25,000 students weekly thought our Local Lunch Thursday Program. We are currently seeking to expand our local purchasing to our satellite sites.

Ezra. H. Baker Elementary School
Planning
$29,896
West Dennis, Massachusetts
The goal of the Ezra H. Baker "Three Sisters Project" is to reconnect our students to the rich agricultural heritage on Cape Cod, both past and present through multi-disciplinary, experiential activities and curriculum. To help our students make healthier nutrition choices, we will provide students daily access to a variety of fresh, locally harvested agricultural products – introducing students to the vibrant farm movement on Cape Cod.

MICHIGAN

Michigan Land Use Institute
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Traverse City, Michigan
This project, Scaling Up: Healthy Kids & Thriving Farms, involves the region's state-recognized farm to school outreach organization, the Michigan Land Use Institute (MLUI), schools in eight geographically close school districts that have worked with MLUI on farm to school programming and also have collaborated with each other, a group of growers ready to invest in much needed scaling-up, aggregation and infrastructure to meet school needs, and other committed community partners. It builds in sustainability by strategically investing in cold storage and minimal processing equipment to catalyze permanent infrastructure and value chain relationships necessary for scaling up local food procurement by schools. It builds student educational integration by positioning the agency that serves area school districts with professional development as the region's new farm to school resource (with in-services and a web site), hands-on education and cafeteria assistance to engage kids in healthy eating and local agriculture (63% free/reduced lunch). It will embed these activities through practice into school culture, create marketing and communications to build a sense of identity, and create celebration and support for farm to school efforts in the region.

Waterford School District
Planning
$44,900
Waterford, Michigan
Objectives of the project include identifying local resources that will facilitate implementation of farm to school; identifying local foods and appealing recipes to add to the menu so that as many local foods as possible are available during as much of the year as possible; providing training so that food service staff are fully prepared to implement farm to school; educating district and community leaders on strategies for successful implementation of farm to school; and creating a farm to school plan with short- term and long-term goals.

MINNESOTA

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Minneapolis, Minnesota
a regional approach, this two-year project will increase farm to school purchases at Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools and lay the foundation for further expansion throughout the Upper Midwest. Through technical assistance, we will help these two districts increase their use of high priority locally and regionally grown foods to feed their diverse, low-income student population. We will further support this effort by developing regional strategies for ramping up season-extended production of fruits and vegetables and documenting opportunities for K-12 buyers to purchase regionally grown grains and pulses. Through our partnership with School Food FOCUS Regional Learning Lab, we will share our experiences and findings with six to ten large urban districts across the Upper Midwest who can leverage their collective demand (representing an estimated 650,000 students) to build the market for sustainably produced, regionally grown and healthy foods.

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Planning
$33,750
Cloquet, Minnesota
The total population of American Indians on the reservation is 2005. Roughly over 25% of our on-site reservation population is 16 or younger. In 2009 American Indian children had the highest prevalence of obesity at 20.7%. Native Americans suffer food insecurity and hunger at twice the rate of the general population. On the Fond du Lac Reservation, our farm to school efforts to date are in the formulation stage; we are working on pulling together partners to have planning meetings and create strategic directions for the future of a fully integrated program. There have been discussions about bringing local foods into the school, but there hasn't been an organized method instituted to make it happen. Interested representatives of the reservation, schools and extension services of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and the University of Minnesota are ready to plan and build access to our local and traditional foods to increase the local economic benefits for producers as well as promote a healthy diet for our youth.

MISSISSIPPI

Oxford City Schools District
Planning
$38,145
Oxford, Mississippi
In order to improve the healthiness of school meals and to engage students and parents in using and appreciating fresh, local produce, the Oxford School District will plan a farm to school program. Over the last five years, the Nutrition Program and its director have improved the healthiness, variety and appeal of the meals offered, but need the help of advisors -- farmers, parents, chefs, teachers, health professionals and other local resources – to begin to integrate local produce in a systematic, meaningful, permanent way. We anticipate four main areas of work: coordinating with local farmers and partners; preparing kitchens and training staff; making classroom connections for deeper student learning, and; engaging and educating parents on how to keep this going at home. We will conduct pilot activities in two elementary schools that serve K-3, but the implementation plan will lay out the procedure for district-wide implementation.

MISSOURI

Hartwig Legacy Foundation d/b/a KC Healthy Kids
Implementation: All Others
$99,645
Kansas City, Missouri
The goal of the Farm to School Academy is to increase access to and consumption of healthy local food in low-income schools in the Greater Kansas City area and to educate school administrators and staff, teachers, children, parents and other stakeholders on the benefits of growing, buying and eating healthy local food and living an active lifestyle. The Academy will be a farm to school training, resource and garden center, with its own conference rooms, classrooms, demonstration kitchen and garden. The requested grant would, during the one-year grant period, enable KC Healthy Kids to implement the teacher training services provided by the Academy into one school and the foodservice training into another school; the grant would fund the two consultants who will train the classroom teachers and food service staff in the schools, the evaluation consultant, the website developer, a portion of the compensation of the project director and certain supplies, equipment and materials.

Winona R-III School District
Planning
$27,130
Winona, Missouri
This planning grant for the South Hadley School System is designed to integrate local food from surrounding farms in the Pioneer Valley into the school's food services with an introductory approach that encompasses the curriculum, the culture, the food and the community at large. Food is at the heart of all cultures. Our goal is to use the funds from this grant to make local food the heart of the school system in South Hadley. Food grown 15 miles away on the same side of the Connecticut River by community members, distributed to and eaten by students, staff and administration will intrinsically increase awareness about where food comes from.

DeLaSalle Education Center
Planning
$25,000
Kansas, Missouri
Founded in 1971, DeLaSalle Education Center operates a charter high school in Kansas City's urban core serving primarily low income and underserved minority students. In 2006, the school initiated a "Healthy Lifestyles" program to educate students on the importance of good nutrition and exercise. This existing program is perfectly aligned with the farm to school goals and already incorporates some of the farm to school initiatives. DeLaSalle will continue its current farm to school initiatives including a school and community garden, "Healthy Lifestyles Days" in which teachers in every subject offer integrated curriculum lesson plans that emphasize health and nutrition once quarterly, and the school chef's focus on cooking with fresh produce with minimal use of processed foods; develop a buyers' coalition consisting of other local schools and nonprofit agencies to increase access to local food, and work with local farmers and vendors to develop access to food items for participating groups; analyze and revise school menus to improve nutritional content and increase use of local foods; and increase student outreach activities to improve student acceptance of locally available produce. Additionally, DeLaSalle will develop a farm to school action plan.

MONTANA

Lake County Community Development Corporation
Implementation: All Others
$99,989
Ronan, Montana
The Mission Valley Farm to School Project will span one year and enable Lake County Community Development Corporation's Mission Mountain Food Enterprise and Cooperative Development Center (MMFECDC) to: implement an innovative procurement program though cooperative purchasing and processing strategies; launch a promotional campaign through networks and events that will promote farm to school program initiatives and that will highlight MMFECDC's center of the plate lentil patty; and, conduct project evaluation through a participatory process that will ensure long-term sustainability of the farm to school program. By implementing innovative procurement strategies the project stands to improve access to locally sourced foods in area school districts. Secondly, the project proposes to provide complimentary promotional materials that will enhance student knowledge of food, nutrition and agriculture and encourage healthy eating behaviors.

Ravalli School District #9
Planning
$28,009
Darby, Montana
Darby Schools will research the potential for a farm to school program in Darby in the future. Over the next year, we hope to build a workable, sustainable plan that can be used as an example for other small, rural schools across the state.

NEVADA

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Implementation: All Others
$90,720
Sparks, Nevada
The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) will be collaborating with the Nevada Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health (OCNSH), and Nevada Health Districts to provide Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and food safety training to school garden coordinators, producers, and Future Farmers of America (FFA) instructors in order to move safe regionally produced foods into Nevada schools. Partnering agencies will also establish networking initiatives between Nevada producers, distributors, School Food Directors/School Food Authorities, Health Districts, and regulatory agencies in order to improve understanding regarding how the school food program operates and how these entities can collaborate in fulfilling the objective of providing locally produced foods into school cafeterias.

NEW JERSEY

West New York School District
Planning
$44,449
West New York, New Jersey
The overarching goal of our project is to create a comprehensive plan that includes sustainable programs that serve food to West New York students that are as fresh and nutritious as possible; maximize the use of fresh, locally grown, produced and processed foods; and, educate students and the community about healthy eating habits through nutrition education, including using hands-on techniques to make the connections between farming and the foods that students consume. We will attain our goal by connecting with local farmers, fresh food cooperatives, state and county resources, and community organizations that will provide expert input through involvement with the district's wellness council. In many ways, through its involvement in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, the district serves as a role model for other districts. The farm to school program will assist us with solidifying our constant efforts to provide nutritious meals and educate our students and community.

NEW MEXICO

Farm to Table, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$97,724
Sante Fe, New Mexico
This project will educationally and nutritionally benefit school children in schools with a high proportion of free and reduced price lunches and benefit local farmers by continuing to open New Mexico's school market for local food purchases and increase school demand for local farm product. This project will improve local procurement strategies with community groups, farmers, and SFAs; prepare farmers for school markets with training and technical assistance to meet buyer requirements for food safety assurance, product traceability, vendor qualifications, and product specifications; develop promotional materials and activities to increase farm to school throughout our State's communities by training school community partners to develop and incorporate experiential nutrition education activities in curriculum planning that encourages the participation of school children in farm and garden-based activities; develop and host farm tours to increase number of schools and farmers conducting local product sales; and, provide farm to school training and technical assistance to 30 new groups and 16 county and tribal communities who serve a high proportion of children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches.

Des Moines Municipal Schools
Planning
$39,355
Des Moines, New Mexico
Des Moines Municipal Schools (DMMS) and sub-recipient Union County Health and Wellness Network (UCHWN) will conduct a farm to school planning project to integrate more fresh, local fruits and vegetables into the district's cafeteria. The project includes feasibility analyses, business planning, and piloting of year-round growing, salad bar and other taste testing, food infrastructure mapping and consolidation of small farmers into shared marketing/distribution, curriculum integration, promotion of nutrition and healthy eating habits, and development of a shared strategic vision among stakeholders.

NEW YORK

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Implementation: All Others
$65,480
Albany, New York
In response to the new Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, as well as the increased need to serve fresh, safe, local fruit and vegetable products at a reasonable cost to schools, we are proposing to pilot a food safety education and fresh produce meal preparation training program. The pilot will be implemented in the Southern Tier of New York, targeting the Binghamton City School District using Broome-Tioga school districts' foodservice program ("Rock on Cafe"). The pilot will also coordinate with GAP workshops that will be offered to produce growers/handlers. Further education components include student taste testing of foods in schools. For elementary grades, the "Rock on Cafe" would use the "Rex and Roxy" characters for healthy eating tips. Rex and Roxy are cartoon characters representing the "Rock on Café", whose focus is to offer healthier versions of foods that children like while being affordable and convenient.

Mid Hudson Pattern for Progress, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Newburgh, New York
The Hudson Valley Farm to School Initiative is a unique collaboration between Pattern for Progress, the Poughkeepsie City School District, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, and Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation. The initiative aims to meet two goals: to develop routine procurement of local foods; and, to create a culture of food systems learning and engagement for the Poughkeepsie City School District. The project will take a whole systems approach to meeting these two goals and the USDA's objectives by collaborating with Hudson Valley farmers, value-added processors, distributors, school administration staff, families, students, and other community stakeholders at each phase of the project. Our project will engage in collaborative procurement changes that strive for incremental, longer term and lasting systemic change and intends to provide a model for other school districts.

Rochester City School District
Planning
$44,919
Rochester, New York
The Rochester City School District (RCSD) seeks to improve the quality of student food services by incorporating regionally produced foods in the school meals served at all schools. The proposed farm to school program will support planning activities that will prepare the District to implement a robust farm to school program during the 2013-2014 school year. The goal of RCSD's program is to provide ongoing opportunities for students to eat fresh foods, learn about the nutritional advantages of these foods, and improve their lifelong eating habits. During the planning period, a farm to school planning committee will be initiated, regional suppliers will be identified, food service staff will be trained, kitchens will be upgraded, instructional lessons for students will be developed, and informational programs for families will be delivered.

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort County Schools
Implementation: Schools
$98,526
Washington, North Carolina
Beaufort County Schools (BCS) serves 6,989 students living in Beaufort County, North Carolina, a large, rural county in which 71.5% of the students enrolled in the county's 14 public schools currently receive free or reduced price school meals. "Homesteading Our School Meals" is a two-year project that will increase usage and consumption of locally and regionally-sourced food products in the Beaufort County Schools Child Nutrition Program. The project will support and enhance gardening and nutrition education efforts at the district's elementary and secondary schools including Career and Technical Education agriculture, horticulture, and foods programs.

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)
Implementation: All Others
$97,571
Asheville, North Carolina
A combination of project activities will further develop regional supply chains to serve the needs of school districts in the region, develop and implement a promotional campaign in support of farm to school initiatives, and create a model farm to school program that integrates local food in the cafeteria with experiential food and farm-based education in classrooms. At the end of the project period, the farm to school market in the project region will be more developed (i.e., more schools will be able to source locally grown food), ASAP's Appalachian Grown Get Local @ School promotional campaign will be more fully implemented at participating schools, and an educational model will emerge as an example to other schools in the region.

Stokes County Schools
Planning
$44,284
Danbury, North Carolina
Stokes County Schools would like to create a vibrant and sustainable farm to school program. The system has been involved in the program for a number of years but the efforts have been hampered by the lack of a systematic plan to increase the number of farmers that are participating in the program and by the small number of our students that are aware of the types of foods grown locally and the nutritional value of these products. This grant will provide us with a firm foundation to create a sustainable program and to take the next steps: the installment of a full blown farm to school program beginning as early as 2014.

OHIO

Cleveland Municipal School District
Planning
$45,000
Cleveland, Ohio
The Cleveland Municipal School District will engage the technical services and expertise of the Ohio State University Extension to help facilitate and guide us in the development of a more coherent strategy and approach to farm to school programming. The end result of this planning grant will be a robust implementation plan which will blend the programming of our food service, academics, and

health/PE departments, and leverage the local farming infrastructure that surrounds the city of Cleveland.

OKLAHOMA

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services
Implementation: All Others
$99,994
Ada, Oklahoma
The Chickasaw Nation Farm to School Project is an important step toward improving the economic stability of small farmers and the long-term health of children in Oklahoma school systems. Benefits of the program include schools providing children fresh, tasty, nutritious produce, while small farmers acquire new markets. The proposed project will span two years with a goal of expanding the number of growers providing foods to the three partner schools within the Chickasaw Nation as well as to increase the variety and selection of locally-grown foods served in the three partner schools. Grant funds will enable the Chickasaw Nation to provide training and networking opportunities for school food service directors, provide culinary training to food service staff within the three partner schools, establish networking and training opportunities for growers and provide nutrition education opportunities in the classrooms of the three partner schools.

OREGON

Willamette Farm and Food Coalition
Implementation: All Others
$92,244
Eugene, Oregon
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition (WFFC) will offer its comprehensive farm to school education program to students in six schools in Lane County, Oregon. Activities include farm field trips, cooking activities, garden sessions, tasting tables and nutrition lessons. We will provide families at these schools with locally grown fruits and vegetables, coupons for use at farmers markets or farm stands, and flyers educating them about the opportunity to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at these sites. Families will participate in field trips to local farms or farmers markets and will receive Oregon Harvest for Schools Family Newsletters. WFFC will also work with nutrition services staff in the four school districts to incorporate more locally grown food into school meals and highlight these products district-wide through a Harvest of the Month program.

School District 1J Multnomah County
Implementation: Schools
$99,961
Portland, Oregon
Portland Public Schools' Fresh Start Farm to School Breakfast will build on the momentum of five years of successful farm to school programs. The project expands purchasing and promotion of regionally-sourced foods to include breakfast and addresses three primary goals: expand farm to school partnerships to increase purchases of regionally sourced foods that support local agricultural producers and processors; develop new student-approved breakfast foods featuring local ingredients to meet the 2013-2014 USDA school breakfast program meal patterns; and, connect low-income elementary students to their regional food system and change knowledge and behaviors through hands-on gardening, harvesting produce for school cafeterias, experiencing farm field trips and including nutrition

lessons in the classroom. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act introduces new school breakfast program meal pattern standards for the 2013-14 school year and PPS is uniquely qualified to create a replicable model through Fresh Start Farm to School Breakfast. This Fresh Start model will include regionally-sourced, student-tested foods that are conducive to the grab and go "no mess" format of Breakfast-After-the-Bell programs. Sharing of this model for replication will be facilitated via Ecotrust's Farm to School Network and through School Food FOCUS partnerships with districts serving over 40,000 students.

PENNSYLVANIA

People for People Charter School
Planning
$44,998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The People For People Charter School (PFPCS), an urban K-8 Local Education Agency (LEA- as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education), will develop a plan for farm to school efforts to provide healthy lunches to students through integration of locally sourced products on our menu. We believe that PFPCS can become a model school through planning and then implementing a farm to school program as following: connect with local producers and farmers; increase student access to local produce and regional food items; prepare our kitchen and kitchen staff to meet the demands of serving fresh, local produce; and educate our students about the importance of healthy eating habits.

Norristown Area School District
Planning
$25,920
Norristown, Pennsylvania
The Norristown Area School District's Farm to School Project will build on the current foundation in place that works to provide nutritious and enjoyable meals to students while creating an environment that encourages good health and wellness. The Farm to School Project will integrate fresh and local foods into the National School Lunch Program and will teach students the importance of developing healthy eating habits. We plan on accomplishing this goal by: connecting with local farmers, utilizing the district's health partners, increasing access to fresh, local food, train staff members how to serve and prepare different types of foods, expand school gardens, conduct taste tests and educate students about good nutrition and eating locally.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Columbia, South Carolina
SCDA is responsible for administering grants to new schools in eight districts across SC in the 2012-2013 school year to implement the four components of farm to school. Selected school districts outlined their plan for serving at least 2 South Carolina- grown produce items per month as a part of the school meal, promoting South Carolina-grown produce in the school cafeteria, integrating nutrition and agriculture education activities in-and-out of class, and establishing school vegetable gardens. The proposed project will span two years and enable the SCDA to expand the capacity of South Carolina farmers and distributors to supply locally grown produce to schools in an additional 8 school districts,

provide networking and educational opportunities for schools, farmers and food distributors interested in increasing the amount of fresh South Carolina produce served in institutions, and test the feasibility of Farm to School "Protein Plus" Pilot Program in a sample of participating schools. As the lead agency committed to implementing farm to school in South Carolina, SCDA recognizes the importance of ensuring that South Carolina farm to school participants have access to technical support, local products, and trainings to successfully implement farm to school.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Bureau of Indian Affairs / Flandreau Indian School
Planning
$39,463
Flandreau, South Dakota
In this ever changing food service program, we strive to provide nutritious and enjoyable meals for our students. Implementing a new farm to school program will compliment and invigorate our current program by offering students locally grown produce and protein sources. Because our student population comes from a demographic that faces many health risks and challenges, providing food education and increasing access to healthier dietary choices remains our ultimate goal. To achieve this we must do the following: create a plan for advancing and sustaining our relationships with local producers, Dakota Rural Action, SDSU Extension, Moody County Extension and other local resources; develop a workable purchasing program with local producers to increase availability to local produce and meats; train staff how to integrate the local, fresh products into our menus; educate our students about producing healthy foods and developing healthy eating habits; encourage students to learn more about local food production processes; and, establish an on-site community garden to extend students' "hands-on" experiences and advance their emerging food production knowledge and skills.

TENNESSEE

Board of Education, Memphis City Schools
Planning
$40,286
Memphis, Tennessee
Our overall goal is to develop a plan to create a vertically integrated farm to school program which can serve as a national model for urban SFAs. Next steps in planning for this program are to identify and bring together key players within Memphis and Shelby County, address procurement, processing and storage logistics, and solidify mentoring and internship opportunities for students. This will enable us to reinforce the importance of relationships between the district, community partners and local farmers. Together MCS and its partners will address four objectives: assess the need and readiness for development of a farm to school program, and determine the tools, training, and technical assistance needed to create a farm to school program, including existing infrastructure for farm to school activities; align the farm to school plan with the district's existing goals, identify key internal allies, and identify resources within the community; identify supply chain partners (including one or more aggregators) with whom we could work with to increase our procurement of regional foods by at least 20%; and, generate an implementation plan that includes goals, specific activities, timeline for implementation, and responsible parties for each activity.

TEXAS

Dallas Independent School District
Planning
$43,587
Dallas, Texas
Dallas ISD has several initiatives that teach and model healthy eating including healthy menu planning, coordinated school health curriculum, local wellness policy, robust physical education, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and school gardens. However, we have not linked all of these activities together. Thus with grant funding we intend to build and strengthen relationships with local farmers, non-profits and food wholesalers/distributors, identify seasonal fruits and vegetables grown locally and in school gardens to include on school menus, identify curriculum to integrate gardening and experimental learning across core subject areas, and identify strategies for evaluation and sustainability of a farm to school program. Dallas ISD has a strong record of promoting healthy eating and physical education. The Food and Child Nutrition Services will work with District Coordinated School Health and Texas A&M University to pilot test curriculum Texas Grow! Eat! Go!, Walk across Texas and CATCH Coordinated School Health Curriculum. The local supplier will assist to identify and track the volume of product and sales of locally/regionally grown foods. This grant will open another door to students to experience school-grown and locally-grown foods, as well as stimulate the local/regional economy.

VERMONT

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Implementation: All Others
$100,000
Montpelier, Vermont
The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will work with four regional food hubs (servicing 56 schools), VT FEED partner Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT (NOFA-VT), University of Vermont (UVM) Extension, and UVM Center for Rural Studies over 18 months starting in November 2012 to: strengthen the regional support structure for farmers and food service staff, create a community of practice among regional food hubs focused on school food procurement, and better demonstrate models of how regional food hubs support farm to school programs and increase purchasing of local foods by schools.

VIRGINIA

Rappahannock County Public Schools
Planning
$44,480
Washington, Virginia
Three regional rural school districts in Virginia—Page, Orange, and Rappahannock Schools—are applying for a cluster planning grant to build upon each of our isolated successes in using local foods, educating children through school gardens, and connecting with local producers. Our initial steps in planning this tri-county project are to identify and collaborate with local farmers, local distributers, food service staff, county extension staff and community stakeholders who are interested in planning and implementing a farm to school program. It is essential to create strong relationships in order to develop a long-term farm to school program in which procurement, delivery, and distribution of local products is entrenched in the cafeteria kitchens. Our overall goals are to develop partnerships with neighboring districts and stakeholders in the supply chain to increase consumption of local products and to increase sustainable agriculture and nutrition education efforts in each district. To achieve these goals we will identify our

current infrastructures and expand within our counties, gather data on local food procurement, and educate the school communities and cafeteria staff about the value of buying, eating, and cooking with local products. All of these components are essential as we move into our implementation phase in the 2014 school year.

Richmond City Public Schools
Planning
$45,000
Richmond, Virginia
Richmond Public Schools (RPS) will utilize funding to expand our current farm to school efforts beyond the annual celebration of farm to school week. The project covers four objectives that will address: school nutrition staff readiness through education and training utilizing FTS best practices program offerings, and salad bar training from GIANT/ MARTINS, a leading retail grocer in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia; a district- wide needs assessment to determine capacity for farm to school activities/ identifying existing and potential resources; building a network of contacts to help source local food purchases; collection of data for data base; and, recruitment of local stakeholders and partners from the RPS Garden Task Force to serve as planning committee members in the development of a Farm to School Action and Sustainability Plan using trained facilitators for "Compression Planning using Storyboards." The project has the support of a wide variety of champions including: the City of Richmond, Field of Dreams Farm, Shalom Farms, GIANTI MARTINS and Healthy Hearts Plus.

WASHINGTON

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Implementation: All Others
$95,539
Olympia, Washington
Home of the first statewide farm to school program in Washington, WSDA has provided leadership and assistance to connect schools and farms for successful farm to school relationships since 2003. Schools, farms and communities have shown increasing enthusiasm, and consistently come to WSDA for assistance in identifying and sourcing Washington-grown food, promotion and education to students, and navigating complex issues of food safety and procurement rules and regulations. With the loss of state funding for the farm to school program in 2011, and schools facing the challenge of a new meal pattern and geographic preference rules, WSDA seeks USDA funding in order to provide critical farm to school support in the coming year through statewide technical assistance, regional "mobile tours" for educating farms and schools, highlighting agricultural specialties, sharing recipes and establishing regional networks, Taste Washington Day and National Farm to School Month promotions, presentations at conferences and workshops around the state, developing materials on safe use of school garden and farm-fresh produce in school salad bars, and continue an in-depth technical assistance project with a farm to school pilot in Kent School District, a large urban school district in Western Washington.

Walla Walla Public School #140
Implementation: Schools
$96,000
Walla Walla, Washington
To bring the plentiful local produce into its school cafeterias, Walla Walla Public School District (WWPSD) will develop and strengthen partnerships and procurement processes of local products. Being a larger district in the region and serving as a mentor for nearby smaller districts, we'll be a pilot district for a state farm to institution geographic preference project and will host a regional mobile farm/ kitchen skills tour. To facilitate use of local produce, WWPSD will work with a local culinary institute to provide training and recipe development to its kitchen staff and welcomes neighboring districts. To encourage the consumption of the local fruits and vegetables coming into the cafeteria, the district farm to school program will provide experiential learning opportunities by adding two more school gardens and will provide 2 garden coordinators to work part-time in five school gardens. Garden coordinators will provide appropriate garden activities, assist in maintenance, help set garden objectives and work with teachers to develop curriculum that meets in class objectives. To create an understanding and appreciation for our local producers, we'll provide field trip and in class connections to local farms. Building healthy cooking habits will extend to students and their parents when WWPSD sponsors local chefs to demonstrate inspiring new recipes.

Cheney Public Schools
Planning
$44,999
Cheney, Washington
The grant will hasten district progress toward a comprehensive reorganization of our nutrition program. While the district has taken modest steps, to date -- movement to a scratch cooking program and a Childhood Obesity Prevention initiative in partnership with the Empire Health Foundation (EHF) -- no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. This grant would complete the district's planning work by adding essential, missing elements and expanding the benefits to all students and buildings in the district.

WISCONSIN

Growing Power, Inc.
Implementation: All Others
$99,868
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
The "Farm Fresh to MPS" project is providing Milwaukee's public school children with curriculum-based education on urban sustainable food systems while procuring more locally produced food into Wisconsin's largest public school system, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). MPS students will be engaged in a variety of curriculum-based programs at the Growing Power Community Food Center and MPS schools varying from school gardens to classroom aquaponics and/or vermiculture. Growing Power will continue to offer daily educational hands-on tours and training opportunities to teachers and students through its monthly "From the Ground Up' workshops and customized educational experiences. Growing Power staffs will also offer ongoing technical assistance to a minimum of three schools that are engaged with school gardens and will serve as examples for peer schools interested in implementing school gardens. Growing Power is requesting funding support to drastically increase the amount of food grown and distributed to Wisconsin's largest public school district, Milwaukee Public Schools, of which 82.6% of the student population is low-income and 85% are students of color. Growing

Power has established a production and distribution system with MPS and seeks to expand its current partnership.

Sparta Area School District
Planning
$35,085
Sparta, Wisconsin
The Sparta Area School District, Tomah Area School District, and Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District have formed a consortium to engage in a county-wide, collaborative effort to develop Farm to School programs that will offer fresh, local foods to elementary children. We estimate that our grant activities will impact approximately 2,900 students in our fourteen elementary schools. We have five grant objectives: identify regional resources to expand a farm to school network; conduct a comprehensive needs assessment; identify healthy menu options where fresh, local foods can be used in school meals; develop education and outreach materials to promote a farm to school program; and, develop a farm to school action plan. We will build capacity for change by recruiting key stakeholders to become part of our planning committee: local growers, community members, food distributors, food cooperatives, and parents.