Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program
2026 List of Awardees

November 2026

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Alabama

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries – $388,570
Montgomery, AL (Cohort 1)

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Alabama State Department of Education will form a partnership to increase local sourcing of Alabama products and promote agricultural education. The strategy will connect child nutrition program (CNP) professionals with local farms, culinary training for CNP professionals, and develop education and outreach opportunities for students to learn about local food and the procurement process. Local sourcing will be promoted through the development of the Alabama Farm to School Searchable Map, an interactive database that CNP directors may use to search for local products by zip code, distributor, and/or product type. Culinary trainings and technical assistance offered by the Chef Ann Foundation will prepare CNP professionals to incorporate local products into school menus. Expected outcomes for local sourcing initiatives include an increase in local purchases by schools by 15 percent over the period of performance (baseline data calculated from incentive data from 2024-2025), culinary training for 440 CNP professionals, and development of recipes that incorporate Alabama products into school menus. Agricultural education efforts will include the filming of "Field to Plate" videos that introduce students to the local food system with corresponding classroom activities, educational meet-and-greet sessions with local farms for Jr. Chef competition teams and their corresponding CNP directors, and travel support for two Jr. Chef teams to represent local Alabama products in the regional Jr. Chef competition. Expected outcomes for agricultural education efforts include increased knowledge of local products by students and student-developed recipes that feature local products for school menus.

Elmore County School District – $500,000
Wetumpka, AL (Cohort 1)

Elmore County Schools will establish a regional Farm to School Processing Hub designed to expand year-round access to Alabama-grown foods for child nutrition programs. Many Alabama farmers face significant barriers when selling to schools, including the need for frequent deliveries, limited cold storage, and short utilization windows during peak harvest. Likewise, school districts often lack the equipment and capacity needed to wash, process, and store fresh produce in quantities large enough to sustain local purchasing throughout the school year. This project directly addresses these challenges by creating a centralized processing facility capable of washing, blanching, cooling, sealing, and freezing Alabama-grown agricultural product for long-term use. Using a district-owned kitchen, the processing hub will initially handle collard greens, peas, and corn, with the intention of adding additional crops as new farm partnerships are developed. The project includes a sub-award to Boozer Farms to procure pasteurization and aseptic packaging equipment to produce shelf-stable, 100 percent fruit puree products for K–12 meals.

Rural Development Leadership Network – $100,157
Montgomery, AL (Cohort 3)

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The Rural Development Leadership Network, in collaboration with KTM Services Unlimited, Inc. and the Macon County Public School District, proposes to launch two new farm to child nutrition programs and establish a pathway to provide local produce to the school nutrition programs in Alabama and Mississippi. The project aims to strengthen the connection of small farmers with child nutrition program staff; increase student's knowledge and consumption of fruits and vegetables; and develop students' interest in agriculture-related careers.

Alaska

Alaska Food Policy Council – $229,993
Homer, AK (Cohort 3)

The Gather, Grow, Learn project will implement a culturally-informed farm to school program that enhances access to fresh, local foods in reservation schools participating in USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Led by the Yurok Tribe Environmental Department, this initiative will expand local program gardens, integrate traditional foods such as salmon, acorns, and native berries into school meals, and deliver agricultural education grounded in Yurok traditional ecological knowledge. The program will engage students through seasonal taste test events, nutrition-focused classroom sessions, and field trips to local farms and traditional gathering sites within Yurok Tribe Food Sovereignty Program Food Villages. Key partners include school administrators, local food producers, and cultural practitioners, who will contribute to sourcing efforts and educational programming.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. – $158,289
Anchorage, AK (Cohort 1)

The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) seeks to strengthen regional food systems by increasing the availability of Alaskan Grown meats, dairy products, and produce for CNPs on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. This initiative will improve the nutritional status of program recipients while advancing local agriculture and cultural food traditions. APIA will expand procurement pathways by collaborating with local distributors, farmers, and food aggregators to establish reliable shipping and distribution networks. The project will also leverage the expertise of a registered dietitian to ensure compliance with CACFP guidelines, integrate new local ingredients into CNP meals, and conduct taste tests to encourage acceptance of local foods.

Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District – $111,801
Anchorage, AK (Cohort 3)

The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District will partner with Hillcrest Children's Center, Friends of Boyer's Orchard, and other educational organizations to provide children with fresh, local, and nutritious apples and other fruits, along with experiential learning opportunities in botany, orchard care and maintenance, vegetable gardening, and beekeeping through the Young Roots, Fresh Fruits project. This project aims to improve children's health and nutrition and invigorate and protect a local orchard in the heart of Alaska's largest city. Young Roots, Fresh Fruits

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is directly aligned with the USDA's mission to help keep small producers in business, educate children about the source of their food, and to boost local food production.

Yupiit School District – $219,107
Akiachak, AK (Cohort 1)

The Yupiit School District is launching an implementation and partnership project, Elitnaurat natlugniritut naunranek nertuameng (students growing strong eating plants/vegetables), to solve a critical food security challenge in remote Alaska. In a region where no roads connect village schools to major supply hubs, fresh produce frequently freezes and spoils on unheated runways while awaiting postal delivery. This initiative replaces that failing model with a reliable "warm-chain" partnership. Meyers Farm will serve as both a producer and regional aggregator, consolidating local harvest with Anchorage-sourced fruit for secure, heated transport via Fox Air's direct charter services. Finally, to complement this external supply, YSD will also localize production by installing two hydroponic grow stations at Tuluksak School.

Arizona

Creighton Community Foundation, Inc. – $266,125
Phoenix, AZ (Cohort 3)

Fresh in the Neighborhood: Farm to School (FiTN FTS) will expand farm to school programming across two Phoenix school districts—Creighton School District and Camelback Montessori in Phoenix Union High School District—by creating a coordinated K–12 pathway of agricultural education, local food exposure, and foundational work toward future procurement of Arizona-grown foods. The project supports students living in communities with some of the highest concentrations of USDA-defined food deserts in Phoenix and limited school-based garden infrastructure. Over the two-year period, FiTN FTS will engage approximately 780 students in hands-on agricultural learning through field experiences, garden workdays, classroom-based tasting activities, and high school agricultural apprenticeships.

Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona – $100,000
Phoenix, AZ (Cohort 2)

The Growing Healthy Futures initiative aims to enhance agricultural education, nutrition literacy, and local food access at Vista Grove Preparatory Academy and Central High School. This farm to school initiative involves the creation of sustainable, year-round indoor growing systems and a comprehensive farm to school curriculum blueprint for grades 6–12. Supported by four partners—Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona, Project Roots AZ, and Vista Grove Preparatory Academy and Central High School in Maricopa County —the initiative will provide ongoing technical assistance, monitor progress, and ensure compliance with USDA guidelines. The outcomes include fully operational garden labs, improved agricultural literacy, trained educators, increased usage of locally grown produce in meals, and a scalable farm to school model for future use in Arizona schools to foster a lifelong appreciation for agriculture and healthy eating among students.

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Arkansas

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Inc – $499,983
Little Rock, AR (Cohort 3)

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance will implement the Growing Local: Arkansas Alliance Farm to School Capacity Project, a two-year initiative designed to expand access to Arkansas-grown foods in child nutrition programs and strengthen the statewide farm to school infrastructure. The project will support child nutrition directors, farmers, educators, and state agency partners in building coordinated, sustainable systems that increase local food purchasing and enhance student engagement with agriculture and nutrition.

Dan-Harton Farm – $348,845
Conway, AR (Cohort 3)

The NOURISH (Nurturing Opportunities for Uplifting Regional Ingredients in School Health) initiative—led by the Dan-Harton Farm in collaboration with Brightwater, Fayetteville Public Schools, Spring Creek Food Hub, and FRESH Network Food Hub—proposes a comprehensive two-year farm to child nutrition program initiative designed to expand access to Arkansas-grown foods in school meals. This project takes a systemic approach that aligns farm production, food hub processing, school nutrition cycle menus, and student education. The initiative will build a replicable and sustainable business model for local food procurement in schools.

WSBZ Farms – $100,000
Little Rock, AR (Cohort 2)

The WSBZ Farm to School Implementation Project will fully integrate farm to school practices across all 11 schools within Bryant Public Schools, serving over 9,600 students. By embedding Arkansas-grown specialty crops into child nutrition program menus, the project aims to improve student health outcomes, elevate food literacy, and create long-term procurement pathways for farmers. The key objectives include: (1) Expand local procurement and seasonal menu integration across the district's meal programs; (2) Train 20 local farmers to meet institutional procurement standards, including crop planning, post-harvest handling, and food safety compliance; (3) Engage at least 300 students annually in garden-based learning, taste tests, cooking demos, and harvest celebrations; (4) Launch and sustain the Bryant Farm to School Network to ensure ongoing coordination among food service staff, educators, parents, and farmers; and (5) Build infrastructure at WSBZ's aggregation site to support year-round delivery and storage of specialty crops for schools. The project will result in increased access to fresh, locally produced foods in school meals, improved nutrition and agricultural literacy among students, and strengthened economic opportunities for more growers in Arkansas. Deliverables include procurement agreements, lesson plans, a community stakeholder network, and replicable models for rural-suburban farm to child nutrition program systems.

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California

Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek – $349,875
San Diego, CA (Cohort 3)

To better address hunger and nutrition deficits in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), the partners in this project will increase student interest and consumption of locally grown healthy meals and snacks during the school day through educational programing, taste tests, and farm field trips across elementary, middle school, and high school. Activities will significantly deepening their overall connection and utilization of freshly grown food from nearby gardens and farms across Southern California. The project will be implemented by three main collaborators: Groundwork San Diego—Chollas Creek, SDUSD, and the University of California San Diego Center on Global Justice.

Honoré Farm and Mill – $151,424
Larkspur, CA (Cohort 1)

This project increases access to healthy, local, sustainably grown whole grains for California students by connecting regional wheat farmers with CNPs and introducing an appealing, whole wheat product designed specifically for school meals. Many schools want to serve more whole grains but struggle to find items that are locally grown, meet nutritional standards, and appeal to students. To address this need, the project expands procurement of California-grown whole wheat flour and berries and develops a whole wheat cheese cracker made from a locally grown heritage wheat variety. The wheat was recently made commercially available and has a delicious flavor, while the cheese is sourced from regional dairies.

Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project – $497,620
Sacramento, CA (Cohort 3)

Sacramento FEAST (Food Exploration and School Transformation) will build a comprehensive farm to child nutrition program ecosystem at Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). The project pairs locally sourced, scratch-cooked meals at 60 elementary schools with 25,000 hours of hands-on learning through culinary lessons, school garden education, and farm field trips. Project partners Soil Born Farms, Food Literacy Center, and SCUSD's Central Kitchen will expand and align their programming to give students layered experiences with fresh, locally grown foods throughout their elementary years. Local procurement for 25,000 daily meals will strengthen markets for regional growers, and project best practices will be shared through trainings and conferences to support the growth of farm to child nutrition programs regionally and nationally.

Sustainable Solano Inc. – $366,597
Vallejo, CA (Cohort 1)

The Solano Farm to School Project will build broad community support for local food sourcing through increased awareness and education among schools, youth, and key stakeholders. The project will support community health and wealth, and create lasting change by increasing access to locally grown foods through establishing a comprehensive, holistic farm to school model in partnership with Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) in Vacaville, California. This model will be

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shared with two other districts in Solano County. There are four project partners: VUSD, Sustainable Solano, Conscious Kitchen, and Innovative Health Solutions.

The Earths Table LLC – $139,500
San Diego, CA (Cohort 3)

The Cooperative Future Agricultural Regional Model is a farm to school partnership project, led by The Earths Table, that connects local farms, school meals, and hands-on learning for students in North County Inland, San Diego County. This project pairs local procurement with practical, joyful food education for students and families. Working with Fallbrook Union High School District Child Nutrition Services as the lead child nutrition program operator, The Earths Table will partner with SGG Farms, the Community Health Improvement Partners Farm to Institution Center, and other community organizations to bring fresher, locally grown fruits and vegetables into the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

The Trust for Public Land – $344,257
San Francisco, CA (Cohort 1)

The Garfield Heights Grows: Cultivating Future Farmers through Agricultural Education project will expand the Garfield Heights City Schools state-certified Career-Technical Education agricultural and environmental systems career field pathway curriculum. This advancement will nurture student interest in sustainable agriculture and local food systems and build the capacity of the GHCS National School Lunch Program to source from local and regional producers.

Colorado

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver – $148,335
Denver, CO (Cohort 3)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver provides school-aged youth with safe, supportive, and engaging spaces that help them reach their full potential. The organization offers high-quality, evidence-based programs outside of school hours, focusing on four core areas: Academic Success, Character & Leadership, Healthy Lifestyles, and Mental Health. These programs are designed to foster personal growth, build resilience, and prepare young people to lead healthy and successful lives. This project will expand the Healthy Lifestyles program in nine school-based clubs located within Aurora Public Schools. The initiative will improve access to local foods in eligible child nutrition program sites, support purchasing from local and regional producers, and provide agriculture and nutrition education opportunities for youth. Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver will partner with program providers to deliver hands-on experiences that promote healthy eating,

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introduce agricultural career pathways, and strengthen nutrition knowledge for approximately 1,400 Club members each year.

Chef Ann Foundation – $500,000
Boulder, CO (Cohort 1)

The Chef Ann Foundation will strengthen the capacity of school food professionals to transform their school meal programs by prioritizing local, whole ingredients through scratch cooking, which advances USDA's priority to improve local food access in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Limited training for school food professionals hinders farm to school initiatives, with only 20 percent of districts offering relevant training according to the 2023 USDA Farm to School Census. This project will provide accessible training and resources for school food professionals, while expanding the fellowship program to create a nationwide impact on school districts.

Cloud City Conservation Center – $132,342
Leadville, CO (Cohort 1)

The Cloud City Farm Education Program will strengthen Lake County's farm to CNP initiatives by expanding access to local foods and comprehensive agricultural education across all three local CNP sites - Lake County School District, Project Dream, and Rockies Rock. Building on Cloud City Conservation Center's longstanding leadership in food systems and nutrition education, the project increases procurement of Colorado-grown foods while ensuring that every Lake County youth engages meaningfully with local agriculture.

Flying Pig Farm – $134,837
Manitou Springs, CO (Cohort 3)

Flying Pig Farm's (FPF) Pikes Peak Farm to School: Building Regional Capacity project addresses the critical need for accessible farm to school resources and infrastructure in Colorado's Pikes Peak Region. Building on its successful Fiscal Year 2024 Farm to School Implementation Grant that served over 2,000 students, this project scales proven programming while creating innovative and replicable tools for regional adoption. Project activities and deliverables include direct programming with over 5,000 annual student contact hours through farm field trips for K-12 students from 10 partner schools providing hands-on agricultural education in biodiversity, soil health, planting, harvesting, and food preparation. Additionally, FPF plans to host 36 taste testing events over two years, introducing locally sourced foods to students in cafeterias across existing and new partner schools, directly connecting farm education to cafeteria experiences.

Growe Foundation – $117,309
Louisville, CO (Cohort 1)

Garden to Table's Local Food for Every Learner: Expanding Garden-Based Instruction will increase access to local foods and strengthen agricultural education for Boulder Valley area students. The project will expand a staffed garden educator model to deliver consistent, high-quality garden lessons, integrate garden-grown and locally sourced produce into school lunches, and establish replicable systems to distribute surplus produce to families. Partnerships with the School Food

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Project and Boulder Food Rescue will support menu development, procurement, and distribution, which will create lasting connections between school gardens, cafeterias, and local farms. All activities are designed for sustainability beyond the grant period, supported by a long-term fundraising plan and curriculum resources. Expected outcomes include increased student participation in garden-based learning, greater consumption of fresh produce, expanded local sourcing, and strengthened partnerships with farmers and community organizations, advancing farm to school and farm to CNP practices.

Ogallala Commons Inc – $364,550
Springfield, CO (Cohort 3)

Ogallala Commons' (OC) multi-state project, Tri-State Farm to School on the High Plains: Rural-Focused Supply Chain Coordination for Institutional Buyers, will leverage relationships with values-aligned producers and child nutrition programs to perform farm to school activities across the rural Texas Panhandle, southeast Colorado, and northeast New Mexico. OC will use its nonprofit food hub based out of Raton, New Mexico, to supply regionally sourced foods to potentially 719 schools and 466 childcare facilities in 78,263 square miles of rural, underserved communities. The project will generate sourcing and purchasing from regional producers and increase access to agricultural education.

Connecticut

EASTCONN Regional Educational Service Center Incorporated – $116,858
Hampton, CT (Cohort 1)

EASTCONN will establish a centralized production kitchen at its Columbia campus to increase access to fresh, locally sourced foods for 2,368 K–12 students across 9 partner schools. The project will renovate the kitchen, equip it for large-scale meal preparation, develop and pilot menus featuring regional produce, and train food service staff in safe handling and scratch-based cooking techniques. Key partners will support food sourcing, distribution, menu testing, and educational activities. Through these efforts, the project will improve student nutrition, expand farm to school access, and create a sustainable model connecting regional farmers to school meal programs.

Groton Board of Education – $100,000
Mystic, CT (Cohort 2)

Groton Public Schools (GPS), located in southeastern Connecticut, is expanding student access to local farm-fresh foods. Building on the success of existing farm to school programming, including previous funding from USDA, GPS partners with numerous local farms and supports agricultural education through school gardens, greenhouses, and hydroponic systems that help connect students to food production and increase access to local produce. Through this grant, GPS will implement an onsite processing facility to increase access to fresh produce year-round and advance GPS's goal to become a processing center for neighboring school districts. GPS will also work with community partners to train staff and teachers in farm to school concepts and integrate

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Next Generation Science Standards-aligned agricultural lessons into the preK–12 curriculum and high school career and technical education program. The opening of an early childhood center in September 2026, located at the same facility as the processing kitchen, offers an ideal opportunity to expand the program to early learners.

Yellow Farmhouse Education Center – $428,055
Stonington, CT (Cohort 1)

The Farm to Culinary Classroom Initiative: Advancing Curriculum, Career Pathways, and Local Procurement will expand the Yellow Farmhouse Education Center's established farm to school work across Connecticut, Rhode Island, and nationally by strengthening teacher training, deepening producer–school partnerships, and increasing student access to food education and career pathways. Over a 24-month period, the project will support high school Family & Consumer Sciences and Child Nutrition Program sites through integrated curriculum, professional development, and procurement strategies.

Delaware

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids Inc– $294,390
Hockessin, DE (Cohort 1)

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) will strengthen Delaware's Farm to School network by piloting a comprehensive Tiered Program Support Model that improves the quality, consistency, and sustainability of school garden education across the state. As Delaware's premier school garden education provider, HFHK currently reaches more than 25,500 students in pre-K through 8th grade in 63 schools and will expand its structured support system to 73 partner schools during the grant period.

District of Columbia

City Blossoms Inc. – $489,646
Washington, DC (Cohort 3)

Through active five-year partnerships with 33 child nutrition program sites in Washington, DC—19 early childhood centers and 14 Title I K-8 schools—City Blossoms develops comprehensive farm to school garden programs that increase access to fresh, locally sourced foods and strengthen lifelong habits around healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes. City Blossoms is widely recognized as a national leader in early childhood and K-8 garden-based learning, known for its place-based garden and nutrition curricula, student-driven garden design practices, and role as a technical assistance provider to schools, nonprofits, and agencies across the Mid-Atlantic.

Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School – $186,877
Washington, DC (Cohort 3)

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The Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School will expand its successful farm to school program by continuing Freedom Farm operations and enhancing hands-on learning opportunities. Building on established initiatives, including garden clubs, parent-teacher organization collaboration, hydroponic towers, and food demonstrations, this project introduces three key enhancements: a beekeeping program for pollinator education and product-making, additional hydroponic towers extending into dining areas, and a mobile kitchen for culinary instruction. Students will document their learning through podcasts and videos, visit local farms, and participate in farmers markets to share their harvest.

Florida

AMIkids, Inc. – $369,942
Tampa, FL (Cohort 1)

AMIkids, Inc. proposes a comprehensive farm to school initiative to improve access to fresh, locally sourced foods and expand agricultural education across seven child nutrition program sites in South Carolina. Building on insights from a 2022 USDA Turnkey Action Planning grant, this 24-month project will establish school gardens, integrate standards-based gardening and nutrition curriculums into academic schedules, and strengthen local procurement systems. Partnerships with Clemson University, the South Carolina Department of Education, and Canteen will provide technical assistance, educator training, and distribution support. Key activities include installing seven school gardens, hosting quarterly market day events, and implementing a procurement tracking system to measure local purchasing. Students will engage in experiential learning through recipe development, cooking demonstrations, and a social media masterclass, combining workforce development with technology-driven outreach. By the second year, menus will feature 15–20 percent locally sourced produce, verified through USDA-aligned indicators and reported via the FNS-908 Performance Progress Report. Expected outcomes include increased consumption of local foods, measurable gains in agricultural and nutrition knowledge, and enhanced workforce readiness through hands-on experience. Long-term sustainability will be achieved by embedding farm to school practices into AMIkids' academic and operational systems, supported by in-kind donations, community partnerships, and organizational resources.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Inc. – $499,467
Hobe Sound, FL (Cohort 1)

The Boys & Girls Club of Martin County Florida (BGCMC), in partnership with the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension, the Martin County School District, and a coalition of community partners will implement the recommendations from the FY 2024 Farm to School Turnkey Grant's Action Plan in the Martin County region via four eligible CNP sites and additional sites served (currently two). BGCMC closed out our past award by expanding organizational capacity and building the foundational systems, partnerships, and processes needed to implement a robust, countywide farm to school program that incorporates locally produced foods across the entire plate into USDA Foods programs. During the Track, BGCMC conducted a comprehensive needs assessment, engaged families and farmers, analyzed procurement and logistics barriers, and developed an operational food hub model that positions

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the organization for full implementation, establishing its USDA food program as a consistently reliable market for Martin County agricultural producers.

FLIPANY – $197,969
Dania Beach, FL (Cohort 3)

FLIPANY will implement the Fresh from South Florida – Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Project to expand access to Florida-grown foods and agricultural education for children participating in the After-School Meals Program (AMP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). With USDA funding, FLIPANY will strengthen connections between Florida farmers, food service vendors, and community-based child nutrition program sites, increasing opportunities for children to learn about where their food comes from while accessing fresh, locally sourced produce. Over the two-year project period, FLIPANY will partner with local farmers, AMP/SFSP vendors, and youth serving organizations—including EZ Meals 2 Go, The Arc of South Florida, and Branches—to deliver 26 nutrition and agricultural education courses, reaching 400 children. The project will also conduct 30 taste tests featuring Florida-grown products, helping youth build familiarity with fresh foods and encouraging healthy eating behaviors.

School Board of Miami-Dade County, FL – $122,963
Miami, FL (Cohort 3)

Homestead Senior High School (HSHS), a homegrown, fresh-food hub for a food insecure community will raise awareness about nutrition and careers in agriculture while students apply food production and animal husbandry skills in a student-powered farm and farmer's market enterprise. This farm to school initiative will create an independent campus farm and farmers market ecosystem that will not only produce food, but also educate and train the next generation of student food producers, researchers, agricultural managers, and advocates for sustainable agriculture who will work to improve food systems and to provide fair access to nutritious food in their communities. This project will produce industry leaders while elevating nutrition and career awareness. The HSHS RAISED Here Initiative will also engage local farmers and industry partners, connecting the low income, low access community to the sources of their food and increase their access and awareness of plant production, nutrition, and food autonomy.

School District of Orange County, FL – $123,483
Orlando, FL (Cohort 3)

This project expands farm to school programming across 32 public schools in Orange County by increasing access to nutrition education, local produce, and food recovery efforts. Schools will receive refrigerators to support shared tables and host taste testing events, agricultural lessons, and staff training to enhance food safety and student engagement. Twelve pilot schools will participate in gleaning field trips to local farms and receive hydro systems to extend agricultural learning into the classroom. The project supports the district's Strategic Plan 2030, which emphasizes food recovery, school gardens, and waste reduction.

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Star of the Sea Foundation – $103,375
Key West, FL (Cohort 1)

Smart Sprouts: Cultivating Curiosity Through Farm to School Education is the Star of the Sea Foundation's (SOS) comprehensive effort to expand access to agricultural literacy, nutrition knowledge, and hands-on farming experiences for children in Monroe County over a two-year grant period. As the only farm to school provider in Key West, SOS is uniquely positioned to connect students to agriculture in a region where exposure to farming is limited by the Florida Keys' 120-mile island chain geography, distance from the mainland, and the near absence of local production sites. This project addresses that gap by bringing agriculture directly into classrooms, summer childcare centers, school cafeterias.

Georgia

Common Market Georgia, Inc. – $453,431
East Point, GA (Cohort 3)

The Common Market Southeast, with The Grow Kit Collective and rural school partners, will expand a proven farm to school model into Middle Georgia by supporting Dodge and Bleckley County Schools to increase purchases and use of locally sourced, minimally processed Georgia-grown foods. Using Georgia's Harvest of the Month framework, the project will coordinate sourcing and distribution, strengthen school nutrition teams through culinary training, recipes, and open-access toolkits/videos, and build farmer readiness through twice-yearly Farmer Town Halls with hands-on technical assistance. Student taste tests, promotions, and "farmer field trip" videos will reinforce agricultural education and increase fruit and vegetable consumption.

Flint River Fresh Inc. – $316,700
Albany, GA (Cohort 3)

Flint River Fresh, in partnership with 4C Academy, Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC), and NextGen AgriSolutions Inc., will implement the FreshRX Farm-to-Clinic Pipeline, a comprehensive farm-to-school-to-clinic initiative that expands local food access and agricultural education in one of Georgia's most food insecure and health-disparate regions. Students will grow produce in expanded school gardens and hoop houses while receiving science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEM)-based drone mapping and precision agriculture training. Student-grown vegetables, supplemented by purchases from 15 trained local farmers, will be incorporated into 4C Academy's child nutrition program meals and packaged into monthly FreshRX produce boxes distributed to 350 food insecure patients at AAPHC clinics. Farmers will receive GAP/GHP certification and procurement readiness training, enabling new institutional contracts with both the school and the Federally Qualified Health Center.

Gwinnett County Public Schools – $499,914
Suwanee, GA (Cohort 3)

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The Grow it Forward Farm-to-School initiative seeks to expand agricultural education and healthy food access across ten middle schools in the district, representing each region of the county. Activities include composting, gardening, outdoor cooking demonstrations, and cafeteria-based taste tests. This farm to school initiative will ensure students, especially in economically disadvantaged schools, receive consistent access to fresh, healthy meals. Partners, including Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia – $149,618
Athens, GA (Cohort 3)

Growing the Future: Integrating Hydroponics and School Gardens into Clarke County Schools is a collaborative initiative designed to expand farm to school engagement and increase agricultural literacy in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Led by the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia in partnership with the University of Georgia's Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication, Clarke County School District (CCSD), and Produce'd Hydroponics, the project will install at least one hydroponic grow tower and five raised garden beds in agriculture, health, and science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEM) classrooms and Green School programs within elementary, middle, and high schools in the CCSD system.

Hawaii

Keiki and Plow – $497,585
Honolulu, HI (Cohort 3)

Keiki and Plow (K+P), an ʻāina (land)-based educational program housed on a 3.762-acre farm in Hawaiʻi Kai, Oʻahu, aims to strengthen Hawaiʻi's farm to school network by connecting preschool and higher education partners through a culturally-grounded, science-based initiative. Through a two-year partnership with Waialae Elementary Public Charter School and Chaminade University's Centre International de Formation des Iutorités et Leaders and Environmental Studies Programs, K+P will collaboratively develop and pilot a curriculum that integrates ʻāina stewardship, nutrition education, and agricultural science for early childhood students.

Illinois

County of Johnson – $469,770
Vienna, IL (Cohort 3)

County of Johnson 133 (Vienna High School) will serve as coordinating hub for Feeding the Future: Southernmost Illinois Farm to School Network, a comprehensive regional initiative that will connect up to ten small-to-medium agricultural producers with child nutrition programs across the southernmost counties of Illinois. Operating through three interconnected components, this project establishes sustainable farm to cafeteria pipelines while developing the next generation of agricultural producers through an expanded outdoor learning laboratory.

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Evanston Grows – $107,553
Evanston, IL (Cohort 2)

Evanston Grows, in partnership with Evanston Township High School District 202 (ETHS) and Skokie–Evanston District 65, will build a coordinated, community-rooted pipeline between Evanston's expanding network of urban farms and local schools. This project will connect Evanston Grows' existing farm sites—including the new one-acre Ridgeville Farm—to District 65 elementary and middle schools and to ETHS culinary, nutrition, and sustainability programs, ensuring that students benefit from hands-on agricultural learning and increased access to fresh, hyper-local produce. Over the two-year grant period, Evanston Grows will collaborate with teachers, students, caregivers, food service leaders, and community partners to co-create a comprehensive Farm to School Action Plan. Activities will include agricultural education for 4th and 5th graders at Foster Elementary School; field trips to multiple farm sites; hands-on science, nutrition, and food system lessons; and curriculum co-development grounded in 5th Ward culture and history. As District 65 opens the new 5th Ward school, Evanston Grows will ensure the school launches with a strong, student-centered farm to school program embedded from the start.

Youth & Opportunity United, Inc. – $203,023
Evanston, IL (Cohort 3)

Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.) will plan, implement, and evaluate its farm to school programming. Y.O.U. will partner with The Talking Farm and Evanston Grows local nonprofit to provide agricultural education and improve access to local foods in Evanston, IL. Activities include afterschool and summer programming to plan, plant, grow, and harvest gardens. Agricultural education programs involve monthly field trips and hands-on culinary enrichment to prepare meals from the harvested food.

Indiana

Families Anchored in Total Harmony, Inc. – $500,000
Gary, IN (Cohort 3)

Families Anchored in Total Harmony, Inc. (FAITH CDC) proposes the Planting a S.E.E.D. (Sustainable, Edible Education & Development) Initiative, a comprehensive farm to school program designed to transform agricultural, nutrition, and food systems education for more than 700 K-12 students at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy in Gary, Indiana. The project integrates bi-weekly NUAG (Next Urban Agriculture Generation) curriculum instruction, school garden expansion, hydroponics, composting, taste tests, Cooking Club sessions, and culturally responsive experiential learning conducted in partnership with Purdue University Extension. There is also hands-on urban agriculture foundations, exploration, and application at FAITH CDC's FAITH Farms and Orchard in Gary, Indiana.

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Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools – $463,731
Jasper, IN (Cohort 3)

Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools (GJCS) proposes the Real Food. Real Farms. Real Learning. Greater Jasper Farm to School Project, a comprehensive two-year initiative designed to bring fresh, local milk, cheese, and meat into all cafeterias across the district while expanding hands-on agricultural and nutrition education for all K-12 students. The project will strengthen the district's connection to local producers, increase student access to high-quality local foods, and build long-term capacity for sustainable local procurement. GJCS will transition all cafeterias to bulk local milk sourced from Family Tyme Creamery. The project will purchase milk dispensers and reusable cups for all four schools, enabling daily service of local milk to every student. GJCS will pilot locally produced cheeses from Rockville Dairy, using shredded cheese for entrées, cubes for lunchboxes, and salad bar toppings, paired with student and staff taste tests.

Madison Consolidated Schools – $221,250
Madison, IN (Cohort 1)

The Growing Minds partnership between Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS), Madison Youth Unlimited, and the Food and Growers Association strengthens the capacity of southeast Indiana's local food system to support procurement and uptake of local food in three MCS schools. The project addresses three needs: 50 percent of MCS families are at risk of food insecurity and rely on school nutrition; area small farmers seek sustainable access to institutional markets; and MCS kitchens need greater capability to prepare fresh foods. Growing Minds meets immediate needs and builds long-term capacity by developing the next generation of farmers, school cooks, and agribusiness leaders.

Perry Central Community School Corporation – $286,351
Leopold, IN (Cohort 1)

Perry Central Community School Corporation proposes to expand Perry Central Organics, a student-led hydroponic growing program, to improve access to fresh, local vegetables for all 1,200 students participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Building on a successful pilot with one hydroponic tower, the project will scale production to 14 hydroponic vertical towers, enabling year-round growth of lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and additional produce for taste tests and cafeteria integration.

Plymouth Community School Corporation – $437,332
Plymouth, IN (Cohort 3)

Through Tower2Table, Plymouth Community School Corporation will launch a hands-on sustainable agriculture initiative that expands local food production, enhances agricultural education, and strengthens the community's farm to school pipeline. Using Anu's low-water, accelerated-growth system, students will grow flowers and vegetables while learning about conservation, efficient production methods, and the role of locally sourced foods in addressing community food needs. Through student-led planting, monitoring, harvesting, and data tracking, participants will gain real-world experience in sustainable agriculture and deepen their

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understanding of food access challenges. This project responds directly to rising local food insecurity, where more than 54 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. By introducing a technology-enabled growing system capable of producing vegetables in as little as 35 days, the project will significantly expand year-round production capacity and overcome the current limitations of traditional growing methods and seasonal production. Harvested vegetables will be incorporated into school meal programs and donated to local food banks, increasing access to fresh, nutritious foods for families across the community. Flowers grown through the project will be sold to local towns, schools, and community partners, with all revenue reinvested to purchase seed pods and supplies, ensuring program sustainability.

Iowa

Iowa City Community School District – $498,259
Iowa City, IA (Cohort 1)

Iowa City Community School District's (ICCSD) purpose of their project Growing Connections is to build connections between their CNPs and middle school and high school curriculums, while growing the capacity and resilience of the greater farming community. ICCSD will launch their Agriculture Program of Study by hiring their first agriculture program coordinator within their Center for Innovation. The new agriculture program will implement three new greenhouses and generate over 1,500 hours of middle school and high school student contact through project-based learning opportunities that focus on expanding their overall learning experiences. To continue providing students with a pathway after high school and college, ICCSD has partnered with Iowa Valley RC&D and its six-month apprenticeship and two-year fellowship programs on the edge of Iowa City to fill the need of additional career training opportunities during and after high school. This partnership with Iowa Valley RC&D's farmer training programs will provide an opportunity to expand farmer connections for ICCSD's CNPs and increase local food options for breakfast and lunch.

Iowa Department of Education – $215,193
Des Moines, IA (Cohort 1)

The Iowa Department of Education seeks to implement the farm to school project Cooking Up Connections: Iowa Farms, Food Hubs and Schools in Action. With two other state agency partners, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, state-level capacity for farm to CNP participation and initiatives will be amplified. Together, several activities will be completed to improve Iowa schools' access to local foods for use in USDA CNPs, provide agricultural education to Iowa students and strengthen farm to CNP partnerships at all levels across the state.

Kansas

Kansas State Department of Education – $248,582
Topeka, KS (Cohort 3)

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The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) will lead an expansion of its statewide Farm to Plate initiative. The purpose of the project is to improve access to local foods in eligible child nutrition program (CNP) sites across the state, expand local sourcing directly from Kansas farmers and ranchers, provide agricultural education to students through greenhouse and gardening curriculum, and develop new indigenous-inspired recipes for statewide National School Lunch Program (NSLP) use. KSDE will partner with NSLP operator USD 497 Lawrence Public Schools and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operator Day Care Connection to implement the following activities:

- Procurement Specialists will break down barriers to local food use by identifying local food producers; supporting procurement plans, coordinating aggregation logistics, streamlining invoicing, and providing technical assistance with both the CNP operator and the producer to ensure sustainability.
- KSDE will create new agriculture education opportunities by developing a school greenhouse curriculum guide for K-12 students to grow food for CNP menus.
- KSDE will partner with Day Care Connection, a CACFP sponsor, to develop gardening training for CACFP and SFSP sponsors.
- KSDE will partner with USD 497 Lawrence Public Schools to contract with a chef trained in Indigenous foods to develop four recipes for statewide menu use.

Marysville USD 364 – $469,066
Marysville, KS (Cohort 1)

Unified School District's 364's Farm to School Connections project will implement the district's recently-adopted Farm to School Strategic Plan, building a comprehensive program that increases local foods on CNP menus, supports regional food producers, and connects K–12 students to the sources of their food. Funding will enable to district to complete the following grant activities: retrofitting the district's central kitchen to enable the preparation of fresh, made-from-scratch meals; building the capacity of the district's CNP staff to utilize local ingredients; supporting regional agricultural producers to participate in the CNP food marketplace by scaling up production infrastructure at partner farms; sourcing produce and proteins directly from these regional producers; incorporating new local food CNP menu items; providing experiential learning opportunities on partner farms; integrating hands-on food growing experiences at the school site; and expanding in-classroom agricultural education lessons.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – $482,133
Mayetta, KS (Cohort 3)

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation seeks to establish a comprehensive Tribal farm to school initiative that integrates community farming, orchard development, and buffalo/cattle meat processing to strengthen food sovereignty and improve nutrition for children served by the Boys and Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Ben-no-tteh Wigwam Tribal Child Care Center. This project will expand local food production and strengthen supply chains by cultivating community gardens and fruit orchards, operating Tribal meat processing, and

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developing partnerships with regional farmers. Together, these activities will ensure a consistent supply of fresh, traditional, and locally sourced foods for child nutrition programs.

The Farm School at Gibbs Road Inc. – $216,624
Kansas City, KS (Cohort 1)

KC Farm School and partners will implement a comprehensive, multidistrict farm to school initiative that strengthens access to local foods, expands agricultural education, and provides youth workforce development opportunities across Kansas City, Kansas and surrounding communities. Partnering with Turner USD #202, Liberty Academy, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, and BuildTrybe, the project creates a coordinated, farm-centered ecosystem that integrates school gardens, on-farm field trips, local food education, composting, and hands-on career pathways for youth, including students with disabilities, at-risk youth, and those aging out of foster care.

Kentucky

Barren County School District – $123,478
Glasgow, KY (Cohort 1)

Barren County Schools seeks funding to expand and strengthen districtwide farm to school efforts through hands-on agricultural education, increased production capacity, and deeper integration of locally grown and student-grown foods into school meals. The project will support the establishment of two new 25×25 foot educational greenhouses at elementary schools, the purchase of a germination chamber, a tractor-operated rotary tiller, and additional tower gardens and supplies to expand controlled-environment growing capacity across the district. Two student co-op positions will be created to support greenhouse operations, garden maintenance, tower garden production, harvest coordination, and classroom and afterschool agricultural education. Middle school students will participate in farm field trips to partner farms, expanding career exploration and real-world food system learning. Trojan's Table—the district's internal food hub—will continue coordinating the sourcing and purchasing of student-grown and locally grown foods for cafeteria use. All revenue generated from student-grown produce will support Dirt to Dish afterschool garden programs, while a dedicated sustainability account will provide long-term funding for seeds, soil, and garden supplies.

Frankfort Independent Board of Education – $263,524
Frankfort, KY (Cohort 3)

Frankfort Independent Schools (FIS) will build on more than five years of farm to child nutrition programs efforts to: increase students' access to fresh and local foods in FIS school cafeterias and the Second Street School FoodPrints classroom, while engaging students in robust agricultural and nutrition education; build the capacity of FIS Food Service to procure, process, prepare, and promote local foods; and grow student participation in school meals by 10%, double district purchases of local agricultural products, and increase the number of scratch-cooked menu items offered, while expanding and streamlining local procurement from small and mid-size producers.

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Magoffin County School District Finance Corp – $260,000
Salyersville, KY (Cohort 3)

Magoffin County Schools proposes a comprehensive farm to school initiative that expands access to fresh, locally grown foods and strengthens hands-on agricultural education across all five district campuses. The project will serve approximately 1,800 students through activities that integrate greenhouse production, nutrition education, and culinary learning into daily school experience. With grant funding, the district will construct a large-capacity greenhouse to support year-round produce cultivation and will purchase essential cafeteria equipment, including walk-in coolers and refrigerated salad bars, to safely store and serve Kentucky-grown fruits and vegetables. These upgrades will increase the availability of fresh produce in school meals and enhance the district's capacity to implement farm to cafeteria practices.

Need More Acres Farm LLC – $264,391
Scottsville, KY (Cohort 1)

Need More Acres Farm, in partnership with Bowling Green Independent Schools, Warren County Public Schools, and Allen County Schools, will provide hands-on agricultural education and expanded access to Kentucky-grown foods for K–5 students in south central Kentucky. Over the two-year project period, approximately 3,000 students per year (6,000 total) will participate in immersive farm tours focused on the parts of plants—roots, stems, leaves, flowers, seeds, and fruits—through harvesting, tasting, and standards-aligned learning activities. To reinforce these experiences in the cafeteria, the project will conduct taste tests with locally grown produce and coordinate procurement planning between farmers and school food service programs.

Louisiana

Recirculating Farms Coalition, Inc. – $260,732
New Orleans, LA (Cohort 3)

Recirculating Farms in partnership with Sprout—a technical assistance organization for professional growers, and child nutrition program partner KIPP Central City Primary School—will establish and expand a comprehensive farm to school program designed to increase access to fresh, healthy foods while strengthening connections between local farmers, students, and school communities. At the center of the project is the creation of an on-site educational farm where students will engage in hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning through agricultural activities. The farm will provide produce for school classes, activities, and events, reinforcing healthy eating habits beyond the classroom.

Maine

Boys & Girls Clubs of Border Towns – $348,000
Presque Isle, ME (Cohort 1)

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The Wabanaki Tribal Farm to School Initiative is a first-of-its-kind, multi-Tribal effort designed to strengthen local food systems, expand access to Indigenous foods, and deepen agricultural education for Wabanaki youth across four Tribal Nations in Maine. Led by the Boys & Girls Club of Border Towns (BGCBT), a multisite CNP operator serving more than six hundred Indigenous youth annually, BGCBT operates four Tribal Boys & Girls Club sites located on Wabanaki Tribal lands across Maine, positioning the organization as the central youth development and nutrition hub for Indigenous youth in the region. The initiative creates a coordinated farm to CNP network that connects Tribal farmers, gatherers, and food producers directly to USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program meals.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute – $342,928
Portland, ME (Cohort 3)

This project aims to make it easier for schools across New England to serve local seafood harvested by New England fishers. This project will create a comprehensive and regional sea to school program that connects the cafeteria, classroom, and community by providing hands-on culinary training for school nutrition staff; developing and expanding local seafood curricula in New England; and creating a regional sea to school community of practice to help support school nutrition staff start and continue to serve local seafood.

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area – $465,270
Hallowell, ME (Cohort 1)

Strengthening the Maine Farm & Sea to School Network is a two-year initiative led by Healthy Communities of the Capital Area to expand statewide capacity for bringing more Maine-grown and minimally processed foods into child nutrition programs, while improving the market infrastructure that supports Maine's farmers, fishers, and food businesses. Through coordinated training, technical assistance, and producer–buyer connection strategies, the project strengthens the statewide farm and sea to school ecosystem by aligning and advancing the Maine Farm & Sea to Institution Network, the Maine Farm & Sea to School Institute, and the Maine Food Convergence Project's Local Food Switchboard.

Maine Department of Education – $121,855
Augusta, ME (Cohort 3)

This two-year initiative will expand farm to child nutrition program efforts across Maine by hiring a Farm to CACFP Coordinator to strengthen local food access and integration within Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) settings. The initiative builds on Maine's existing Harvest of the Month Program, adapting it for early care environments while emphasizing fresh, minimally processed, and locally sourced foods that foster lifelong healthy eating habits. Core activities include establishing a statewide network of Regional CACFP Champions across Maine's nine Public Health Districts, creating district-level procurement directories; developing CACFP-aligned cycle menus and recipes; and facilitating quarterly meetings that promote peer learning and farm-to-provider relationships.

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Maryland

Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, Inc. – $255,625
Mt. Lake Park, MD (Cohort 1)

The Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Extension (UME), the Garrett County Board of Education, and Garrett Growers, proposes Maryland Mondays to establish a sustainable farm to school model in Garrett County, MD. The project addresses the critical barrier of lacking dedicated staff capacity for procurement and preparation. Serving 600 students across eight schools, the program will feature a locally sourced food item every Monday of the 36-week school year, paired with UME-developed educational units. Funding will hire dedicated personnel (food procurement specialist, farm to school educator) to ensure program sustainability. Key outcomes include: increasing student fresh produce consumption by 60 percent, increasing local food procurement from 0 percent to 20 percent of total food spending, and training 40 food service staff. Maryland Mondays creates a replicable model that strengthens rural farm economies while fostering healthier, more sustainable school nutrition in the community.

Baltimore City Public Schools – $183,477
Baltimore, MD (Cohort 1)

The Food and Nutrition Services department of Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) will launch a Harvest of the Month at City Schools (HOTMCS) campaign that reinforces the connections between local farms and school cafeterias. This project includes three pillars: 1) integrating local produce into cafeterias, in collaboration with the Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center, which will coordinate among local growers and distributors to enable more regional procurement; 2) incorporating HOTMCS items into existing agricultural education programs at district-owned Great Kids Farm and in schools; and 3) raising awareness of HOTMCS items among City Schools families at local grocers and farmers markets to link retail and cafeteria contexts, in partnership with the Baltimore City Food Policy and Planning Division.

Maryland Department of Agriculture – $431,828
Annapolis, MD (Cohort 3)

The Maryland Harvest Champion Pipeline is a two-year initiative led by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. This project focuses on market connection and experiential learning through:

- Direct Financial Incentives: a $105,000 Farmer Logistics Stipend Fund to support the transportation of local produce to schools and a $45,000 Bus Stipend Fund to remove financial barriers of connecting youth to farms through field trips.
- Business to Business Market Development: connecting farmers to buyers via the Maryland's Best Expo events. Increasing the number of GAP-certified producers with the support of a University of Maryland Extension Food Safety Specialist.
- Educational Storytelling: Contracting professional videographer to produce high-quality "Virtual Field Trip" videos.

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Ridge to Reefs – $290,176
Sykesville, MD (Cohort 1)

Ridge to Reefs, in partnership with Floyd County Public Schools and SustainFloyd, will implement a two-year farm to child nutrition programs project to increase local and regional foods in school meals, while expanding agricultural education and career readiness opportunities for students. The project will begin with a comprehensive needs assessment and action plan that documents current farm capacity, infrastructure gaps, and cafeteria demand, producing a shared roadmap for local procurement, producer readiness, and school infrastructure investments.

Massachusetts

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures Inc – $180,133
Great Barrington, MA (Cohort 1)

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures (BAV) will use farm to school funding to implement a two-year pilot project that creates a regional, replicable supply chain for locally raised ground beef sourced from culled dairy cows and served in K–12 schools. Building on more than a decade of regional livestock research and value-chain development, BAV will coordinate procurement, processing, distribution, and school engagement to introduce USDA-inspected, regionally sourced beef into school meal programs in western Massachusetts. The project establishes a new institutional market for an underutilized agricultural resource—culled dairy cows—while strengthening farmer viability and increasing student access to local foods.

Frontier Regional Union 38 School District – $247,223
South Deerfield, MA (Cohort 3)

Frontier Regional Union 38 School District (FRSU38) will expand its farm to school program by integrating sustainable, community-supported garden education at all four elementary schools, increasing local food procurement through the implementation of the Harvest of the Month Program and by offering high school students hands-on learning experiences in agriculture and food systems. The project will contribute to a resilient community food system by strengthening connections between students, families, food service staff and local producers, promoting healthy eating and environmental stewardship and laying the groundwork for career pathways in agriculture and food systems. By the end of the grant period, the district will deliver garden-based modules for grades K-2, with active instruction in kindergarten and first grade. Gardens will be accessible to the entire school population as well as the surrounding community, with maintenance supported by community “work bees” and paid high school interns for summer care.

School Garden Support Organization Network – $256,079
Walpole, MA (Cohort 3)

The School Garden Support Organization (SGSO) Network will develop, pilot, and launch a national School Garden Stakeholder Mobilization Toolkit, a comprehensive resource designed to help school garden professionals effectively recruit and engage the stakeholders needed to sustain and

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expand school garden programs at a systems level. This project builds directly on the 2024 USDA-funded project to consolidate national data into a public map about where school gardens are located and who supports them. As part of that project, the SGSO Network is developing a data-informed outreach and engagement plan to strengthen agricultural education, particularly in regions with fewer school gardens or limited support structures.

The Farm School, Inc. – $340,794
Athol, MA (Cohort 1)

This project advances farm to school efforts across Massachusetts by addressing a key statewide challenge: inconsistent access to local food and agricultural education across rural and urban school districts. Led by The Farm School–in partnership with the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, six partner schools in Boston Public Schools, Massachusetts Farm to School, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and the Farm-Based Education Network–the project strengthens school-based child nutrition program systems through structured local procurement, hands-on learning, and peer collaboration.

Michigan

Copper Island Academy – $118,408
Calumet, MI (Cohort 1)

Copper Island Academy, a rural K–10 public charter school in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula, will use Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant funds to transform underutilized campus spaces into a large-scale permaculture learning landscape. The Permaculture Campus: Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Expansion project will install a year-round controlled-environment growing system in the high school atrium and establish three extensive outdoor permaculture zones–edible landscaping, layered food forest, and pollinator habitat–that supply fresh produce for USDA's National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program meals.

Detroit Public Schools Community District – $480,000
Detroit, MI (Cohort 2)

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) will develop the Mackenzie Agricultural Learning and Incubator Farm, a 12-acre, ready for purpose soil-tested campus that will serve as the district's hub for farm to school production, local procurement, agricultural education, and workforce development. This project will increase the availability of fresh, Detroit-grown produce in the district's child nutrition programs while expanding high-quality, hands-on learning opportunities for more than 15,000 students. The project includes developing the Mackenzie site into a multi-use agricultural campus featuring: high tunnels, irrigation and utility upgrades, compost and soil improvement, equipment for mixed vegetable farming, incubator plots for emerging Detroit growers, and designated K–8 instructional garden zones. The project also revitalizes the school garden program across the district at 106 schools through technical assistance, curriculum integration, and teacher support. Expected outcomes include increased student exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables, enhanced academic engagement through outdoor learning, strengthened ag-career pipelines, and increased procurement of local foods for school

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meals. DPSCD will partner with Keep Growing Detroit and the Detroit Food Policy Council. The Mackenzie Agricultural Learning and Incubator Farm establishes a permanent agricultural anchor within DPSCD, ensuring that local procurement, student learning, and farmer development continue well beyond the grant period.

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Inc. – $272,354
Traverse City, MI (Cohort 3)

A Recipe for Success: Expanding a Farm to School Model in Northwest Lower Michigan is a collaborative, two-year initiative led by Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, in partnership with Taste the Local Difference and East Jordan Public Schools / Char-Em Intermediate School District. Together, this partnership will strengthen regional farm to school infrastructure and access to local foods in child nutrition program sites, expand producer access to stable institutional markets, and create a replicable model for school districts across Michigan, while deepening agricultural, nutrition, and food systems education for students and school communities.

Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Inc. – $173,183
Freeland, MI (Cohort 3)

The Michigan Health Improvement Alliance will partner with the Northeast Michigan Healthy Food Initiative, three school districts and others to improve access to local foods in child nutrition program (CNP) sites across Northeast Michigan (NEMI). This partnership will:

- Establish a NEMI Regional Community of Practice to expand partners, foster peer learning and build capacities.
- Work with and connect NEMI farmers to nearby schools to facilitate sales and build farm capacity to work with and supply CNP sites.
- Provide sub-awards to school participants of a 2024-2026 USDA Farm to School Planning Grant and others to continue the work they started and implement their priority goals and build long-term capacity.
- Document an innovative regional farm to school approach that supports success in rural school districts and provides opportunities for local farms.

Muskegon Area Intermediate School District – $500,000
Muskegon, MI (Cohort 2)

The Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), in partnership with all 11 local public school districts in Muskegon County, proposes a comprehensive farm to school initiative designed to expand access to locally grown foods, strengthen agricultural and culinary education, and build sustainable countywide systems that enhance child nutrition programs. Funding will support the coordination of a Muskegon County Food Systems Consortium that streamlines local procurement, connects school nutrition programs with small- and medium-sized growers, and advances shared purchasing strategies—including forward contracts, recipe commercialization, and value-added processing. The project will increase student access to fresh, Michigan-grown

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foods and deliver more than 21,000 hands-on educational engagements in farm/producer field trips, school gardens, taste tests, food production, and integrated cafeteria–classroom learning. Through strong partnerships with local growers and participating districts, the initiative will significantly expand local procurement, strengthen food systems education, and build sustainable regional capacity to support long-term integration of farm to school practices in Muskegon County.

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan – $466,560
Ann Arbor, MI (Cohort 3)

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM) proposes the Partnership for Local Agriculture and Nutrition Transformation (PLANT) project to expand and scale the reach of farm to child nutrition program (CNP) efforts in Wayne County, Michigan. PLANT aims to foster healthier eating habits and increase access to nutritious foods among young children and their families by strengthening garden-based education and increasing the use of local foods in early care and education (ECE) sites and elementary schools. The project includes a multi-faceted set of activities focused on student agricultural learning, community engagement at the regional and statewide level, educator capacity building, and infrastructure development. These activities will be carried out in close collaboration with CNP providers, local farms, and Michigan's Farm to School and Farm to ECE Networks. PLANT will expand programming to three elementary schools serving roughly 1,500 K-5 students and 12 ECE sites reaching an estimated 250 children, while also coaching 72 educators. Over the project period, NKFM will track volunteer engagement, deliver approximately 80 trainings, and cultivate partnerships among schools, farmers, local businesses, and community-based organizations to support long-term systems change and the continued growth of farm to CNP in Wayne County.

Minnesota

Providers Choice, Inc. – $100,000
Minneapolis, MN (Cohort 1)

With this Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant, Providers Choice Inc. will expand on a successful FY 2021 USDA Farm to School Turnkey Grant funded pilot project, which established edible garden programs at three child care centers. The FY 2026 expanded project will bring edible gardens, agricultural education, and local food connections to 15-20 additional child care centers across Minnesota, impacting at least 900 children.

Mississippi

Midtown Partners Inc. – $288,468
Jackson, MS (Cohort 3)

The Midtown Farm to Community (F2C) Expansion Project builds on Midtown Partners Inc.'s successful Fiscal Year 2024 USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant and advances the Midtown Public Charter School District's F2C Initiative to increase access to fresh, locally grown foods for students and community residents. The initiative repurposes underutilized urban land

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across the Midtown neighborhood of Jackson into a network of productive growing and learning sites, expanding access to healthy foods while advancing environmental stewardship and community resiliency. Together, these sites will expand hands-on agricultural learning for more than 500 K-8 students and support the distribution of more than 3,500 pounds of fresh produce to students, teachers, and community residents.

Mississippi Community Housing Development Organization – $326,755
Vicksburg, MS (Cohort 2)

Jefferson County School District will establish a comprehensive farm to school program serving 324 high school students in Mississippi's Delta region. This project transforms the high school's underutilized greenhouses into thriving hydroponic production systems where students grow fresh vegetables and herbs year-round for school cafeteria meals. Students enrolled in agricultural education classes will operate multiple hydroponic systems and learn about modern controlled environment agriculture techniques, while producing food that directly benefits their peers. Beyond student-grown food, the school's child nutrition programs will establish purchasing relationships with four local farms, creating new market opportunities for regional producers while diversifying local food availability in school meals. Students will visit these farms through educational field trips, building direct connections between classroom learning and real-world agriculture. Project partners include the Jefferson County Child Nutrition Program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and Mississippi Community Housing Development Organization, which will coordinate student engagement campaigns and promotional materials designed with student input. This initiative prepares students for careers in Mississippi's number one industry, agriculture, while immediately improving their daily nutrition through increased access to fresh local foods.

Missouri

Cornerstones of Care – $497,366
Kansas City, MO (Cohort 3)

Cornerstones of Care, a state-contracted child welfare agency in Kansas City, Missouri, proposes to expand its Seed to Plate initiative within its Build Trybe career and technical preparation program. The project will increase access to locally sourced foods at three child nutrition program sites and strengthen agricultural education for non-traditional learners served in its Residential Treatment and Therapeutic Day Treatment Schools. Cornerstones of Care will establish two additional school garden sites at DeLaSalle Education Center and its new Education Campus, extending farm to child nutrition programming to 220 more students and creating a unified three-site learning network. Project activities include developing garden infrastructure, expanding production capacity, and delivering year-round vocational instruction. Produce grown across all sites will be incorporated into CNP meals.

Foundation for Food and Farm Connections – $158,180
Truxton, MO (Cohort 1)

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The Foundation for Food and Farm Connections (FFFC) proposes to expand Missouri schools' access to locally raised beef, pork, and poultry by strengthening the supply chain connecting producers, processors, distributors, and child nutrition programs. Building from over 8 years of similar experience, FFFC will work with 10 school districts to overcome common barriers to local protein purchasing, including vendor onboarding, pricing, yields, storage, and staff readiness to handle raw proteins. FFFC will collaborate with key partners such as Opaa! Food Service, the Missouri Association of Meat Processors, and Missouri Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom to deliver four regional procurement workshops for foodservice directors, four institutional sales workshops for producers, and four hands-on kitchen trainings for school nutrition staff.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – $379,925
Jefferson City, MO (Cohort 3)

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) proposes the Missouri Harvest Connect project, a statewide initiative to increase access to local foods in Missouri's eligible child nutrition programs (CNPs). This project will support CNPs, agricultural producers, and community stakeholders through collaboration, education, and peer learning. In partnership with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the University of Missouri Extension, DHSS will address three key barriers identified by Missouri CNPs to starting or expanding farm to CNP (F2CNP) efforts. Project activities will focus on: creating a centralized online hub on the DHSS website to house Missouri-specific F2CNP resources and information; developing and adapting educational materials and training toolkits, such as the Bringing the Farm to School Agricultural Producers' Toolkit, to support both producers and CNPs; and launching three regional Harvest Connect Learning Networks (HCLNs)—each a six-month cohort that brings together local producers and CNP sites to build purchasing relationships.

Urban Sprouts – $494,837
University City, MO (Cohort 3)

The Urban Sprouts 24:1 Farm to School Expansion Project aims to transform access to fresh, locally sourced foods and strengthen agricultural literacy for young children and families living in the 24:1 Community of North St. Louis County, which is historically under-resourced. Building on extensive community assessments, stakeholder listening sessions, and a prior USDA Farm to School Planning Grant, Urban Sprouts proposes a comprehensive, innovative approach to expand local food access, early childhood agricultural learning, and community food self-sufficiency across 24 childcare centers.

Montana

Montana Land to Hand – $162,752
Whitefish, MT (Cohort 2)

Montana Land to Hand (L2H), a nonprofit, will implement the project Rooting Farm to School in Flathead County, Montana to dramatically enhance farm to school activities across the region. This

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initiative centers on building county-wide capacity, coupled with local sourcing and comprehensive agricultural education. As the lead organization, L2H will develop a robust, replicable farm to school toolkit for Montana schools, which will include standards-based curriculum, best practices for school garden maintenance, and detailed local procurement procedures. To ensure long-term sustainability, L2H will lead regional-level farm to school networking and training events for school professionals and establish a monthly Montana Farm to School Community of Practice, bringing together practitioners from across the state for peer learning and technical assistance. The project's main school site is the Columbia Falls School District #6, the primary child nutrition program (CNP) operator partner. Key agricultural partners, including Flathead Farmers Union Local, Glacier Processing Cooperative, North Shore Farm, Siderius Family Farm LLC, Two Bear Farm, Wicked Good Produce, and White Star Organics, are committed to connecting America's farmers and ranchers to local CNPs.

Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Education – $495,553
Lincoln, NE (Cohort 3)

The Nebraska Department of Education will lead Nebraska SEED: Sustaining Education, Expansion, and Development to strengthen and expand farm to school and early care and education (ECE) efforts across Nebraska. Building on the FY 2022 USDA Farm to School Grants, this two-year project will grow and sustain the Nebraska Farm to School Network and the Nebraska Farm to School and ECE Institute. Nebraska SEED's two coordinated strategies will be expanding regional support for schools and producers; and providing professional development through the Nebraska Farm to School and ECE Institute. Regional coordinators will connect schools with farmers, lead local meetups, and support procurement and educational garden initiatives. A local purchasing pilot will test new models for food aggregation and distribution to help smaller schools and ECE programs access local foods.

Nevada

City of Henderson – $150,000
Henderson, NV (Cohort 1)

Home Grown Henderson project will expand access to healthy foods for Henderson students by revitalizing school gardens, adding new garden infrastructure, integrating STEM-based curriculum, and hosting student-run farmers markets. The City of Henderson is partnering with the Clark County School District, the nonprofit Garden Farms, and the University of Nevada Reno Extension to implement the project.

New Hampshire

ReGenerative Roots Association – $165,000

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Nashua, NH (Cohort 3)

ReGenerative Roots Association (ReGen Roots) will expand its Food Forest Project to strengthen farm to school programming throughout New England by developing school-based educational orchards and food forests, increasing connections between regional farmers and schools, and providing students with hands-on agricultural education and greater access to locally grown food. School orchards will serve as living classrooms while creating a long-term source of fresh fruit that can be incorporated into school meals and culinary arts programs. During the two-year project, ReGen Roots will develop six educational orchards and food forests in the Nashua, New Hampshire region, planting at least 200 fruit trees and engaging more than 100 volunteers annually. Food grown at these sites will support school meals and/or culinary arts programming. The project will also expand connections between agricultural producers and child nutrition programs by providing fruit trees to farms throughout New England. The project will provide thousands of students with opportunities for experiential agricultural education while increasing access to healthy, locally grown food and strengthening connections among schools, farmers, educators, volunteers, and community organizations.

New Jersey

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. – $207,064
Mahwah, NJ (Cohort 3)

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. (MEVO) project seeks to engage the Mahwah School District's 2800 students in district-wide farm to school programming through agricultural education and local sourcing efforts and activities. The project will address the rapid decline of agricultural activities and farms in MEVO's home county of Bergen County which holds over one million people, but a handful of food-producing farms. The project will benefit all students in the district but will have themes focused on grades 3, 5, 7, as well as high school seniors. Each school will have a garden that will be managed to provide produce for the cafeterias.

Ocean Mental Health Services, Inc. – $400,478
Bayville, NJ (Cohort 3)

Ocean Mental Health Services' (dba Bright Harbor Healthcare) Salt Bridge Farm will launch a comprehensive farm to school initiative that expands access to fresh, locally grown foods while delivering hands-on agricultural education for students in Ocean County, New Jersey. The farm will supply bi-weekly deliveries of produce to participating child nutrition program sites within the Toms River School District, integrate STEM-aligned and culinary programming, and embed sustainability practices such as composting, hydroponics, and aquaponic learning systems. Salt Bridge Farm will implement this work in collaboration with Toms River Schools, Fulfill (the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties), and Rutgers University, which will serve as the evaluation partner. Together, these organizations will expand student engagement, increase exposure to nutritious food options,

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and build lasting capacity for farm to school programming that benefits children and communities beyond the grant period.

Woodbury City Public Schools – $222,260
Woodbury, NJ (Cohort 2)

Woodbury City Public Schools (WCPS) will increase student access to fresh, locally sourced foods and strengthen the local food system by expanding a districtwide farm to school initiative. Serving 1,756 students across four schools, WCPS will enhance procurement, storage, and educational programming to create sustainable connections between classrooms, cafeterias, and regional farmers. WCPS will formalize partnerships with regional farmers and Pennsylvania-based distributor The Common Market, incorporate grains and proteins into salad bar offerings, and integrate more local ingredients across district menus. Professional development, including coaching, workshops, and menu-planning support, will strengthen scratch cooking and build staff capacity. Students will access expanded experiential learning through school gardens, hydroponic systems, farm visits, taste tests, and a student ambassador program that promotes healthy eating and local agriculture. A new Farm to School Data Dashboard and Procurement Toolkit will track purchasing and program outcomes to ensure long-term sustainability. Key partners include The Common Market for local procurement, Nutri-Serve for menu integration, and Sustainable Schooling for project management and evaluation. Together, these efforts will improve student health, support local producers, and establish a strong, enduring farm to school ecosystem within WCPS.

New Mexico

Cooking with Kids, Inc. – $198,988
Santa Fe, NM (Cohort 3)

Tasted Not Wasted: Nutrition Education that Brings Local Food from Farm to School to Forks is a two-year initiative led by Cooking with Kids in close partnership with Española Public Schools, West Las Vegas Schools, and Las Vegas City Schools. They are also supported by additional collaboration with Northern New Mexico school districts and connected to broader state and national farm to school networks. The project aims to increase student consumption of fruits and vegetables, expand agricultural education, and strengthen local connections between schools and producers. The initiative will reach more than 8,000 Pre-K—8th grade students annually across 33 Title I schools, including children from rural and Tribal communities and regions identified as among the highest-need counties in the United States. Bilingual classroom cooking lessons, Nuevo Thursdays cafeteria tastings, and hands-on farmer activities will give students repeated opportunities to try fruits, vegetables, beans, and whole grains grown in their region.

National Center for Frontier Communities – $360,599
Silver City, NM (Cohort 3)

The National Center for Frontier Communities proposes a three-pronged approach: supporting the Frontier Food Hub's existing operations that deliver local foods to schools; activating established

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relationships with school leadership and nutrition staff to help schools increase their purchases of local products; and expanding NCFC's Journey Through the Food System elementary education curriculum to schools outside of Grant County, which will deepen relationships with education staff and build students' capacity to demand different food choices in their cafeterias.

Reunity Resources – $446,860
Santa Fe, NM (Cohort 3)

Reunity Resources and Santa Fe Public Schools, with support from Cooking with Kids, are expanding on the success of their 2024 USDA Farm to School Planning Grant by strengthening, finalizing, and implementing a comprehensive K-12 farm to school curriculum grounded in Reunity's Root to Fruit Field Trips. This curriculum aligns with grade-level learning objectives and integrates field-based agricultural education with classroom instruction and cafeteria experiences, creating a cohesive, district-wide farm to school educational path ready for scalability and replication statewide.

NACA Inspired Schools Network – $500,000
Albuquerque, NM (Cohort 1)

NACA Inspired Schools Network will expand its Growing Together: Indigenous Farm Hub School Partnerships initiative. This two-year project increases access to locally grown foods and strengthens agricultural education for students in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Funding will support programming led by the Indigenous Farm Hub, a 16.2-acre working and training farm in Corrales, and two partner schools: the Native American Community Academy and Siembra Leadership High School. The project integrates school gardens, hands-on curriculum, paid internships, workforce development training, and procurement channels that increase the flow of local and tribally grown foods into child nutrition program sites.

The Semilla Project – $474,329
Albuquerque, NM (Cohort 2)

The Semilla Project, in collaboration with El Camino Real Academy and Nature Niños, aims to address food insecurity in Albuquerque's South Valley by establishing a student-centered education and production garden at El Camino Real Academy. Utilizing the Semilla Project's successful community garden model, the project will begin with the construction of an in-ground garden where El Camino Real Academy students will grow regionally-suitable crops, supported by agricultural education from Nature Niños. The students will harvest, prepare, and consume the harvested produce. The initiative will then expand to include drought-tolerant innovations such as a greenhouse and a hydroponic system. The project will provide fresh, local produce to 300 students, offer 4,500 student hours of hands-on agricultural experience, and empower young adults through workforce development in agriculture.

State of New Mexico Public Education Department – $496,099
Santa Fe, NM (Cohort 3)

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The State of New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), in partnership with the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association (NMFMA), proposes Procuring Heritage, a statewide initiative to strengthen school communities' connections to locally grown, heritage foods. The project integrates hands-on agricultural and nutrition education with improved procurement systems that help schools buy and serve more New Mexico-grown heritage and minimally processed foods. Through this grant, PED will pilot an Institute Adaptation through a NM Grown Farm to School Leadership Cohort, engaging six school teams in Year 1 and an additional four teams in Year 2. The project expands access to local foods by helping schools strengthen procurement practices, supporting producers to meet school food safety requirements, and providing production planning in the state's Approved Supplier Program (ASP). PED will disseminate curriculum, recipe booklets, procurement tools, and training resources through the NM Grown Coalition, Nuevo Thursdays, and Healthy Universal School Meals program.

New York

Broome-Delaware-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services – $383,464
Endicott, NY (Cohort 1)

From Farm to Future: Expanding Local Procurement, Culinary Skills, and Agriculture Education in the Broome-Tioga Farm to School Program will strengthen and expand farm to CNP efforts across 15 school districts in Broome and Tioga Counties in New York State, reaching 30,567 K–12 students. The project will enhance local food purchasing, build staff capacity for scratch cooking and using local products, and expand agricultural and garden-based education.

Council on the Environment, Inc. – $488,759
New York, NY (Cohort 1)

The Growing Local Food Education and Procurement in NYC Schools project will strengthen farm to school systems and expand access to fresh, locally grown food in six New York City public and charter schools located in high-need neighborhoods such as Mott Haven, Bronx. The project leverages GrowNYC's longstanding Education & School Gardens programming and GrowNYC Wholesale's New York State Regional Food Hub, which sources from more than 50 regional producers, to create scalable, sustainable procurement pathways within the school network. This project will increase the availability of local products in school meals, while enhancing agricultural literacy, nutrition education, technical skills, and hands-on learning opportunities for students, teachers, and CNP staff. Through recipe development, on-site testing of regionally sourced ingredients, and targeted professional development, schools and CNP staff will improve their skills in local procurement, menu integration, and culinary preparation. Each school will also establish or expand a 2,500 square-foot school garden, creating 30 new garden beds, alongside food, agriculture, and nutrition lessons. The project will foster durable pathways for incorporating locally sourced foods in school meals, while fostering greater awareness of food systems, regional agriculture, and lifelong healthy eating habits for students and educators.

Edens Rose Foundation – $500,000
Albany, NY (Cohort 3)

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Eden's Rose Foundation (ERF) proposes Farms Feeding Futures: Growing Urban Farms, Fair Food Systems, and Student Opportunity, a two-year farm to school initiative that trains, builds capacity, and connects Albany's urban growers with the City School District of Albany Child Nutrition Program (CNP) while engaging students in hands-on agricultural education. Through this project, ERF will expand its Albany Victory Gardens and Urban Farmer Training Program to prepare up to 40 West Hill residents as urban growers who understand food safety, sustainable production, marketing, and CNP procurement requirements. Four vacant lots (approximately 12,000 square feet) will be transformed into micro-farm learning sites where community growers, students, and families can participate in food production, composting, and pollinator habitat development.

Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaragus BOCES – $499,641
Angola, NY (Cohort 3)

Seeds to Students: Growing Agriculture Education and Local Food Use in Western New York Schools is a partnership between Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County, and nine school districts: Cassadaga Valley CSD, Eden CSD, Falconer CSD, Fredonia CSD, Jamestown City School District, Panama CSD, Pine Valley CSD, Silver Creek CSD, and Westfield CSD. This partnership will build a sustainable local infrastructure for preserving, storing, and distributing food procured from local farmers and produce auctions to be used in school child nutrition programs. The project will also enhance districts' abilities to provide hands-on agricultural education through school garden programs, interactive lessons, field trips, produce taste tests, and exposure to agriculture in career and technical education pathways. Through these partnerships, the project will engage and educate students while creating a regional farm to school network that will support school access to locally produced foods for years to come.

Grassroots Gardens of Western New York – $201,574
Buffalo, NY (Cohort 3)

Grassroots Gardens of Western New York (GGWNY), a regional expert and leader in school garden programming, will expand its School Garden Program to deliver and build capacity for school garden programming at 42 schools in Western New York. This project will directly serve 2,200 students and support the expansion of GGWNY's school garden network beyond its traditional service areas of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. This project will be facilitating food-producing school gardens at 42 schools/child nutrition program sites, where the produce can be freely harvested by students and kitchen staff; improving local sourcing by expanding growing infrastructure and participating in other local sourcing efforts; and delivering 300 sessions of agricultural education (school garden programming) in addition to capacity building consultations. This project's partners include 42 individual schools/child nutrition program sites, 36 of which are already established and six of which will be developed during the project period.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – $449,760
Albany, NY (Cohort 1)

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The New York Farm to School Training Initiative, led by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in collaboration with the Culinary Institute of America, aims to enhance the capacity of school food officials to integrate locally sourced foods into CNPs across New York State. The project will deliver one comprehensive training event in each of New York's 10 economic development regions (Capital Region, Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Country, Southern Tier, Western New York, and Long Island), targeting approximately 300 school food service directors, managers, and staff. These workshops will provide hands-on culinary training, procurement guidance, and agricultural education to strengthen farm to school programs, increase local food sourcing, and promote student health and engagement with New York's agricultural systems.

North Carolina

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain – $100,000
Winterville, NC (Cohort 1)

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain is expanding its farm to CNP to help young people learn where their food comes from while increasing access to fresh, healthy produce across eight counties in Eastern North Carolina. The project strengthens youth gardens at the three club sites and uses the fruits and vegetables grown there to support nutritious meals and snacks served through USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program. Through hands-on activities, youth will plant seeds, care for garden beds, harvest produce, try new foods through taste tests, and participate in simple cooking lessons that build confidence and healthy habits. Members will also help run youth-led farmers markets, giving them opportunities to practice leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement while sharing garden harvests with families and local partners.

GROW LEAP FOUNDATION – $362,951
Mount Olive, NC (Cohort 3)

Nurturing Ag Roots: Sustainable Farm-Based Learning for Wayne County Youth, led by the Grow LEAP Foundation, will implement a comprehensive farm to school pilot program in partnership with Southern Wayne High School and local elementary schools from Wayne County Public Schools, and Acorn Acres Farmstead in Mount Olive. The Foundation will deliver experiential agricultural, nutrition, and food system learning experiences for K-12 students, including standards-aligned field trips for elementary and middle school students and advanced learning opportunities for high school agriculture students. The project will focus on partnership building, innovative methods for lasting impact, and connecting farmers to child nutrition programs by expanding access to fresh, local foods; strengthening agricultural career pathways; and building students' skills in regenerative livestock care, greenhouse maintenance and organic gardening, harvesting, and basic farm-to-table meal preparation. Key partners—including Wayne Community College, local chefs, and regional food system organization Feast Down East—will support culinary education, career exposure, and program coordination.

Working Landscapes – $499,999

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Warrenton, NC (Cohort 3)

Working Landscapes' Scaling Farm to School to Serve Northeastern North Carolina and Beyond project will leverage the capabilities of Working Landscapes' unique, rural food hub ByWay Foods and partners to expand farm to child nutrition program (CNP) procurement and education. This project brings together multiple CNPs across the region who share a commitment to increasing local sourcing, including traditional public school districts, childcare providers, and a new charter school. Through a multi-faceted, multi-scale, and multi-product approach, Working Landscapes will co-design a farm to CNP initiative that benefits programs with widely varying facilities, staffing, size, and resources.

Ohio

Food Strong – $200,000
South Euclid, OH (Cohort 3)

Food Strong is a Cleveland-based nonprofit that builds community-rooted food systems and delivers hands-on agricultural, culinary, and nutrition education to youth across Northeast Ohio. In partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Nutrition Services Department, Food Strong proposes Growing Healthy Futures: Expanding Local Food Systems and Agricultural Education in CMSD, a two-year initiative designed to increase the quantity of locally grown foods served in school meals and strengthen agricultural learning for K-12 students.

Highland Youth Garden, Inc. – $152,137
Columbus, OH (Cohort 3)

Highland Youth Garden is a nonprofit urban farm and community garden space located in an area the USDA Food Environment Atlas recognizes as a food desert. Highland Youth Garden has partnered with area schools and will be providing more than 380 pre-K—5th grade students with bi-weekly lessons exploring nature, ecology, nutrition, and the arts. Children in their program will benefit from helping to cultivate, harvest, cook, and taste local produce on-site in the garden.

Metro Early College High School – $277,915
Columbus, OH (Cohort 3)

Metro Early College Middle School, in partnership with The PAST Foundation, proposes Metro Futures: Growing Minds, Growing Communities—a comprehensive farm to school initiative designed to increase student access to fresh, locally grown foods and expand hands-on agricultural education in Columbus. Metro will establish a fully equipped 30' x 48' climate-controlled educational greenhouse and raised bed system to grow seasonal produce for use in the National School Lunch Program and classroom learning.

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Ohio Department of Education and Workforce – $500,000
Columbus, OH (Cohort 3)

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will work collaboratively to grow farm to school opportunities across the state by leveraging the current Ohio Proud program to build partnerships between Ohio growers and ranchers with child nutrition programs (CNPs). The Ohio Proud on the Menu will include greater numbers of CNPs as new marketing assets catered specifically for use in school cafeterias will be introduced. This project will also support the Grow Ohio Grant program, providing competitive awards of $5,000 - $40,000 to child nutrition programs for the purposes of building connections with local producers, improving student access to Ohio foods in meal service settings, and exploring careers in agriculture and food related professions. The project will fund a dedicated Farm to School Chef/Culinary Instructor to train and support CNP operators and the Ohio Grown: Student Chef Showcase recipe creation contest, to increase the confidence of operators in using local, minimally processed Ohio Proud foods, recipe development, and menu creation through hands-on culinary instruction and education. By focusing attention towards both the supply and demand side of the local foods marketplace, this project will significantly grow farm to school and expand opportunities for Ohio farmers and students.

Ontario Local School District – $100,000
Ontario, OH (Cohort 3)

Ontario Local School District is a child nutrition program operator, partnered with the Ontario Youth Sports, Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and two local farmers to support local procurement, agriculture education and work-based learning experiences in food production and distribution. The district will introduce a career-technical education program combining business and agriculture at Ontario Middle School, which serves 463 students in grades 6-8. This project is specifically designed to increase students' access to fresh local produce; foster interest, knowledge and skill development in the agriculture industry; engage students in work-based learning that prepares them for agriculture-related jobs; and encourage the community to buy local produce and/or grow foods at home.

Oklahoma

Cherokee Nation – $500,000
Tahlequah, OK (Cohort 3)

The Cherokee Nation proposes the Cherokee Immersion Charter School Tiny Farm, Gardens, and Greenhouse: Farm to School Initiative, a transformative project designed to strengthen Cherokee language revitalization, expand food sovereignty, and increase access to healthy, culturally relevant foods for Cherokee youth and Elders. This initiative reflects Cherokee Nation's long-standing commitment to reconnect students with traditional Cherokee lifeways and support sustainable, community-centered food systems. The project will benefit students at the Cherokee

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Immersion Charter School and Sequoyah High School, both located on or adjacent to the Cherokee Nation Language Campus in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Oregon

Bethel School District 52 – $131,322
Eugene, OR (Cohort 1)

Bethel School District seeks funding to expand its comprehensive, districtwide farm to school system centered on the Bethel Farm, increasing access to locally grown foods and strengthening agricultural and nutrition education across all eligible CNP sites. The project will deepen existing partnerships with Oregon State University Extension and Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad to deliver coordinated instruction, improve food literacy, and engage families and the broader community in farm-based learning.

High Desert Partnership – $137,558
Burns, OR (Cohort 3)

This two-year project will build off an existing strong farm to school procurement foundation by formalizing systems, partnerships, and tools to help schools in Harney County scale purchases of local produce. Previous efforts resulted in small-scale purchases at Crane High School and the local Head Start program, as well as the acquisition of a walk-in cooler to facilitate food delivery. High Desert Partnership will coordinate this work, bringing together Crane School District and a local farm partner (Rural Roots Ranch) to design procurement approaches that reflect the realities of a remote region with many food challenges.

J Bar J Youth Services Inc – $100,000
Bend, OR (Cohort 3)

The J Bar J Closed-Loop Educational Farm Initiative will establish an agricultural and natural-resource training program that expands the ranch's existing vocational department into a functioning instructional farm. Designed for adjudicated youth who often enter significantly behind academically and with limited work experience, the project provides consistent, year-round opportunities to build hands-on skills, earn academic credit, and engage in meaningful work that strengthens responsibility, confidence, and belonging. The farm system will integrate poultry care, vegetable production, composting, sawmill operations, garden to kitchen partnerships, and beekeeping. During the project period, students will construct additional raised beds, continue sawmill production for on-site infrastructure, operate a solar kiln, enhance soil-building systems, and expand the existing chicken program that utilizes ranch kitchen scraps in a closed-loop model.

Jewell School District #8 – $150,000
Seaside, OR (Cohort 2)

The Clatsop County School District #8 (Jewell School District) will strengthen farm to school efforts through the installation of a greenhouse for their Agriculture Career and Technical Education

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program. This investment will expand hands-on learning opportunities for students, increase the supply of school-grown produce available for child nutrition programs, and deepen the district's long-term commitment to sustainable, local food systems. The proposed greenhouse will significantly extend both the growing season and the variety of crops students can cultivate. The greenhouse will create meaningful hands-on learning experiences for students across multiple grade levels. Students will gain practical skills in plant science, food production, and agricultural career pathways, while building awareness of nutrition, environmental stewardship, and the role of local food systems in community well-being. The increased garden to cafeteria pipeline will also strengthen cross-department collaboration between Agriculture Career and Technical Education, Food Services, and district wellness initiatives.

Oregon Farm to School Network – $478,454
Dallas, OR (Cohort 3)

The Oregon Farm to School Network, in partnership with three local food hubs and Kitchen Sync Strategies, will implement a project to both increase local food purchases by child nutrition programs and enhance farm to school education across the state of Oregon. Woodburn School District will be a partner in and beneficiary of this project along with 55 other schools and early childhood education centers statewide who currently lack access to local products including rural, semi-rural or frontier locations.

Umpqua Valley Farm to School – $234,206
Roseburg, OR (Cohort 1)

Umpqua Valley Farm to School will implement a comprehensive farm to school initiative to expand education and local procurement across Yoncalla School District, South Umpqua School District, and Roseburg Public Schools. The project builds upon existing Oregon Harvest for Schools and Harvest of the Month programs to strengthen connections between school meal programs and local farms throughout Douglas County.

Pennsylvania

Adagio Health Inc. – $467,337
Pittsburgh, PA (Cohort 3)

This project catalyzes sourcing and procurement partnerships between CACFP operators and local farmers and growers to improve access to local foods for CACFP participants. To reduce barriers to establishing local purchasing partnerships, such as higher costs of locally grown foods and hesitation to allocate greater proportions of CACFP food budgets towards local products, this project convenes stakeholders to develop a local purchasing incentive program, sourcing and procurement guidance, and outreach materials. Adaptation of an existing farm-to-early care and education and agricultural education curriculum to feature Pennsylvania-grown foods and integration into participating classrooms will generate excitement and support for local purchasing. CACFP participants and caregivers will gain knowledge of and access to local growers

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and farmers through farm field trips, “meet the farmer” sessions and family engagement events that include cooking classes that feature local foods.

CultureTrust Greater Philadelphia – $209,718
Philadelphia, PA (Cohort 3)

Get Fresh Daily of CultureTrust Greater Philadelphia (GFD)—in partnership with Philly Foodworks and Global Leadership Academy (GLA)—proposes to expand a comprehensive farm to child nutrition program (CNP) model that strengthens local food sourcing, agricultural education, and hands-on garden learning across GLA’s two West/Southwest Philadelphia school campuses. This project will build a unified “Seed-to-Tray” system in which students grow, taste, prepare, and learn from food cultivated in school gardens and sourced from regional farmers. A new farm to school coordinator will manage two school gardens, deliver garden-based agricultural and nutrition lessons, coordinate harvest cycles, and support integration of local produce into CNP offerings. Philly Foodworks will serve as a procurement partner, helping identify and source local, chemical-free produce from Pennsylvania growers to strengthen Harvest of the Month tastings, classroom activities, cafeteria promotions, and integration in school meals.

Pennsylvania Beef Council – $199,870
Bedford, PA (Cohort 2)

The Pennsylvania Beef Council (PBC) will expand the PA Beef to PA Schools (PBPS) initiative, a statewide farm to school program that increases access to locally raised beef and provides agriculture-focused education to students across the Commonwealth. PBPS strengthens school–producer relationships, enhances procurement capacity, and delivers hands-on learning experiences that support child nutrition program (CNP) goals. PBC will scale PBPS from 122 to 175 participating school districts, increasing reach from 220,000 to approximately 280,000 students. Schools will receive procurement assistance, menu development support for both ground and whole-muscle beef cuts, scratch cooking guidance, and standardized resources that integrate local beef into federally reimbursable meals. In 2024–2025, participating districts sourced 133,000 pounds of beef from 26 farms; during the grant period, PBPS plans to expand this to approximately 332,500 pounds supplied by 30 farms. Project outcomes include increased access to local foods in CNP sites, expanded agricultural education, stronger producer–school connections, enhanced scratch cooking capacity, and improved procurement systems for local beef. PBPS will also produce new educational and menu resources, implement robust evaluation systems, and document USDA-required indicators to measure impact.

The Food Trust – $500,000
Philadelphia, PA (Cohort 2)

The Food Trust will significantly increase the capacity of communities to make long-lasting connections between schools, local farmers and other community stakeholders—ultimately increasing local healthy food access, supporting family farmers and encouraging students to engage with nutrition and agriculture. To accomplish this, The Food Trust will pursue three key activities: (1) Invest deeply in three key communities via Local Food Coalitions, building capacity

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with farmers, school district staff, and other stakeholders in these communities; (2) host the Pennsylvania Farm to School Institute, a year-long learning cohort that brings together six cross-sector teams to launch new farm to school initiatives within their communities; and (3) coordinate the Pennsylvania Farm to School Network, a peer-learning network which hosts virtual working groups and webinars to help over 1,300 stakeholders across the state create opportunities for children to grow, learn about, and enjoy Pennsylvania-grown foods. This project will directly impact 8,700 students who participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, engaging them through nutrition and agricultural education and connecting their school districts with increased opportunities for local procurement. At least three producer/growers will also build significant capacity to sell to local child nutrition program providers through technical assistance, long-term facilitated connections with local school districts, and access to peer-learning networks.

Trellis for Tomorrow – $240,465
Phoenixville, PA (Cohort 2)

Trellis for Tomorrow's project, Growing Farm to School Connections in Southeastern PA, will create opportunities for youth to learn about innovative agricultural practices, explore the possibility of a career in the agricultural sector, grow their own food, and prepare healthy food from garden produce. Growing Farm to School Connections will invest resources to expand school gardening and agricultural programs within two specific school districts with child nutrition program (CNP) sites, and extend to others. The program will increase opportunities for youth to grow and prepare food from school-based gardens and hydroponic systems. Produce from the program will be harvested and used for other aspects of school programming, including CNP programs, culinary programs, and garden events. Additionally, ready-to-teach garden and hydroponic curriculum and workshops will be created for teachers who aspire to create or improve agricultural education programs. Beyond the school setting, Trellis will utilize its Agricultural Learning Center at Lundale Farm in Pottstown, PA to offer a wide range of expanded, hands-on learning opportunities such as student field trips, internships, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Puerto Rico

Fondo de Innovacion para el Desarrollo Agricola – $500,000
San Juan, PR (Cohort 3)

AgroEdu Puerto Rico Farm to School seeks to strengthen the connection between agriculture, education, and nutrition in Puerto Rico by implementing a comprehensive five pillar model that expands farm to school capacity across 12 public schools. The initiative establishes climate resilient school and community gardens as experiential learning spaces that integrate science, mathematics, health, and environmental studies, allowing students to engage in planting, harvesting, and hands-on exploration of food systems. Through its agricultural and technical education pillar, the project delivers modules in sustainable agriculture, hydroponics, agro industry, food safety, and nutrition, combined with field days, career exploration, and work-based learning activities benefiting over 200 students. To ensure long-term instructional capacity,

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AgroEdu certifies 50 teachers as AgroEdu Educators and provides curriculum units, classroom toolkits, and a peer learning network to support high-quality, sustained implementation.

Plenitud Iniciativas Eco-Educativas, Inc. – $315,998
Las Marías, PR (Cohort 3)

Plenitud PR in collaboration with five partners (School Food Authority, Alelí Environmental, Inc., Dr. Silverio Medina Gaud School in Las Marías, Eugenio María de Hostos School in Las Marías and Alejandro Tapia y Rivera School in Lajas) will expand farm to school education and increase access to local food for school meal programs in Las Marías and Lajas, Puerto Rico. The project will impact 222 students (ages 5-18) and 12 teachers. Building on Plenitud PR's eight years of successful partnerships with public schools, the proposed project aims to expand agricultural education, local food culture, and healthy cooking skills to improve participants' health and nutrition, as well as reinvigorate agriculture by connecting farmers with schools.

South Dakota

Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud – $147,748
Mission, SD (Cohort 3)

The Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud (BGCR) is launching the first farm to child nutrition program poultry project on the Rosebud Reservation—an effort that gives participating children real access to healthy, locally raised food while building a stronger, more self-sustaining food system for the community. Over the 24-month project period, BGCR will raise a small pilot flock of 150 broilers in Year 1 by building up infrastructure, refining systems, and safely integrating youth into daily agricultural routines. In Year 2, production will scale to 800 birds, producing roughly 3,200 pounds of local chicken for CACFP meals and allowing service of scratch-cooked poultry on a regular basis throughout the program year.

Tennessee

Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network – $500,000
Martin, TN (Cohort 1)

Led by the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, the C.H.E.F. (Children's Health through Education and Food) Program, in partnership with the TN Farm2Future Coalition, will strengthen Tennessee school meal programs and local food systems by embedding two C.H.E.F. Ambassadors in 12 schools across 5 districts. Through scratch cooking training, local procurement guidance, and classroom culinary labs, the project will engage 6,698 students, enhance staff skills, and increase local food purchases by 20 percent. Key partners—including Wellness in the Schools, Healthy Flavors TN, local farmers, and the Tennessee Departments of Agriculture and Education—will collaborate to develop a statewide local food procurement manual and scale farm to school best practices. Deliverables include tested local recipes, educational materials, and a replicable

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C.H.E.F. Ambassador model, fostering sustainable, farm-connected nutrition systems and stronger community-farmer-school partnerships across the state.

Texas

Child Poverty Action Lab – $396,930
Dallas, TX (Cohort 1)

This program will impact students and community members living in Dallas County, Texas, where there remains a significant need to expand farm to CNP efforts. Proposed project activities include activating the school's two existing, unused greenhouses through hydroponic installation, providing weekly agricultural and culinary instruction, hosting field trips to local farms, and implementing student entrepreneurship experiences through a student-led farmers market. Additional activities include onboarding local producers and piloting the inclusion of local produce in school menus. These activities will produce the following deliverables: a developed agricultural curriculum, a class cookbook with studentgenerated recipes, producer engagement resources, and bi-annual evaluation reports.

Common Threads – $232,534
Austin, TX (Cohort 2)

Common Threads, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and The Common Market, a regional food hub that aggregates and supports small- and mid-sized growers across Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana, will implement GROW: Growing Regional Opportunities for Wellness and Local Food Systems. GROW will reinvigorate American agriculture while improving child nutrition across CPS sites. The project expands access to regionally grown foods and strengthens agricultural education by creating a structured farm to child nutrition program (CNP) pipeline that connects Midwestern farmers to CPS classrooms, culinary lessons, and school meal menu development. This project directly addresses needs in CPS by linking growers to CPS procurement systems and embedding farm-focused learning experiences into Common Threads' culinary education model. Through over 3,000 hours of hands-on agricultural culinary lessons, 1,100 K–8 students will learn about seasonality, farming practices, and regional food systems while preparing recipes featuring locally sourced foods. Farmer guest speakers, farm field trips, and classroom taste tests will deepen agricultural literacy and provide CPS Nutrition Support Services with real-time student feedback on potential menu items. Up to 60 CPS food service staff will receive technical assistance and training to support integration of new local products into CNP meals. Expected outcomes include expanded markets for regional farmers, increased agricultural education participation, strengthened grower-CNP connections, and improved long-term access to locally sourced foods across CPS.

Dallas County Texas – $371,429
Dallas, TX (Cohort 1)

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS), in partnership with DeSoto Independent School District (ISD), will lead an initiative called Transforming School Nutrition through the DCHHS Farm to School Program in DeSoto ISD. This comprehensive effort is to strengthen local food systems, expand nutrition education, and enhance student wellness across the district's 10

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schools serving approximately 6,000 students. This project will increase procurement of locally grown foods, provide hands-on experiential learning opportunities, and build long-term capacity within the district to sustain farm to school practices.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS FOUNDATION – $499,440
Houston, TX (Cohort 3)

With the Scaling Seed-to-Plate: Houston's Farm-to-School Network project, the Recipe for Success Foundation will expand farm to school programming across Harris County. This growth will bring its proven Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education™ to 65 child nutrition program sites, reaching over 10,000 students with hands-on agricultural education and connecting them to local food systems. Since 2006, the program has served over 50,000 children with documented results: 30% increases in fresh produce consumption and measurable improvements in nutrition knowledge and healthy eating attitudes. Houston faces a serious childhood obesity crisis, with rates reaching 47% in underserved communities. Yet fewer than 5% of schools and community programs provide structured agricultural and nutrition education. Many school gardens sit unused because educators lack training, curriculum, and support. The project addresses this gap by building permanent capacity through educator training while simultaneously reaching thousands more students through accessible programming.

Utah

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food – $375,000
Salt Lake City, UT (Cohort 1)

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education and key partners, will pilot a statewide farm to school initiative that increases the use of locally grown Utah fruit in school meals while integrating agricultural and nutrition education into the classroom. Over a two-year period, the project will connect Utah fruit producers with 13 CNP sites distributed throughout the state, creating new market opportunities for farmers and increasing student access to fresh, local foods.

Vermont

Center for an Agricultural Economy – $497,474
Hardwick, VT (Cohort 1)

The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) will increase the volume and variety of local food sold to eligible CNP sites throughout Vermont and New Hampshire through a number of initiatives. They include providing business advising, training, and technical assistance to farms and local food producers to increase their participation in the CNP marketplace; expanding distribution systems physically linking food producers to CNPs; expanding experiential agricultural educational opportunities to serve all K-12 students in CAE's local school district year-round; and providing farm to school program development coaching services to at least two additional school districts. Partnering with its local CNP, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union, and with farm to school

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service provider and food hub Green Mountain Farm to School, CAE will increase the number of food producers supplying CNPs through CAE's distribution service from 85 food producers supplying 78 CNPs to 100 food producers supplying 95 CNPs.

Champlain Valley School District – $333,170
Shelburne, VT (Cohort 3)

The STEM Roots Academy is an innovative, district-wide initiative designed to increase K-12 STEM proficiency, enhance farm to school knowledge, and promote agricultural workforce development in Hinesburg, Vermont. The project addresses a critical dual need identified through local and federal data: the post-COVID stagnation in math and science achievement and the urgent need to revitalize the local agricultural economy following a 14.2% loss of Vermont farms between 2017 and 2022. Key deliverables include the operational Mobile Lab, a workforce of credentialed high school students, and the STEM in the Garden curriculum, which will be published as a free online resource by May 2028. By Year 4, the Academy will impact over 1,100 students annually across five elementary schools. Expected outcomes include measured gains in student math and science proficiency, increased volume of local food served in child nutrition program sites, and the establishment of a lasting, student-led local food supply chain.

KidsGardening.org, Inc – $492,521
Bradford, VT (Cohort 3)

The Growing Food, Growing Futures (GF^2) Initiative will establish a national framework for project-based farm to school learning, empowering students to design, grow, and share healthy, local food through school gardens. KidsGardening will develop the Growing Food, Growing Futures Project-Based Learning (PBL) Guide, a resource to help educators and child nutrition teams facilitate student-led, standards-aligned learning that connects the classroom, cafeteria, and community. The guide will include modular PBL unit templates, garden design tools, crop planning resources, and food safety checklists to ensure both educational and nutritional goals are met.

Virginia

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools – $499,956
Williamsburg, VA (Cohort 3)

The KelRae Farm Training & Processing Hub: Expanding Farm to School Education and Local Procurement in Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools (WJCC) project presents a comprehensive, sustainable strategy for transforming how local food is integrated into school meals and student learning. By creating essential processing infrastructure, expanding workforce training, strengthening district-wide education, and supporting local agriculture, the project addresses critical gaps and creates lasting capacity for farm to school growth. Through robust partnerships with KelRae Farm, the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, and the WJCC SHIP program, WJCC Schools will significantly increase the volume of fresh, local produce available to students, reduce food waste through the use of "seconds," and ensure that thousands of children

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experience cohesive, engaging farm to school education across classrooms and cafeterias. This initiative represents a long-term investment in health and local agriculture, positioning WJCC as a regional leader in farm to school innovation.

Winfield Farms LLC – $342,726
Suffolk, VA (Cohort 2)

Winfield Farms, in partnership with Portsmouth Public Schools (PPS), Suffolk Public Schools (SPS), and three regional agricultural organizations, will expand access to locally grown foods, strengthen small-farm procurement pathways, and deliver hands-on agricultural education. PPS and SPS together serve more than 26,000 students, many of whom face economic and geographic barriers to obtaining fresh, nutrient-dense foods. This project enhances school food systems by improving supply chains, increasing demand for local produce, and engaging the broader school community. The initiative will pilot comprehensive farm to school programming at three schools in each district, offering classroom and farm-based gardening, taste testing events, agricultural workshops, and family engagement activities. A major project deliverable is the development and implementation of a multi-farm, five-year renewable procurement contract that increases purchasing from small local farms and provides stable, predictable markets for producers. Additional activities include menu integration, food service training, and coordinated planning between schools and farmers. By aligning procurement, education, and community engagement, the project will increase the volume and variety of local foods served in school meals, improve agricultural literacy, and establish a sustainable, scalable farm to school model for both districts.

Washington

Federal Way School District #210– $401,451
Federal Way, WA (Cohort 3)

Federal Way School District (FWSD) will expand its Garden to Table initiative to help students learn where food comes from, try more fresh fruits and vegetables, and understand local agriculture. The project strengthens connections between school gardens, the Truman High School Farm, and school meal programs so that produce grown by students can be served through the National School Lunch Program. Every school in the district—37 in total—will benefit from new hands-on learning opportunities and lunchroom activities that highlight local foods. Over the two-year project, FWSD will double its growing sites from eight to 16 school gardens, in addition to the district farm. Four new schools will launch gardens in Year 1, with five additional schools added in Year 2 A garden curriculum support specialist and farm manager will lead this expansion and help teachers bring agricultural concepts into science; health and fitness; social emotional learning; science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM); and career and technical education courses.

Living Well Kent Collaborative – $499,376
Kent, WA (Cohort 3)

Living Well Kent Collaborative (LWK), a nonprofit advancing small farms' role in the local food value chain, will partner with Auburn School District (ASD), Butler Agriculture Consulting, and small local

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farms to implement Rooted Schools Auburn. The project will expand farm to school programming at ASD by increasing local farmers' participation in the child nutrition marketplace, strengthening ASD's procurement of locally grown food, and preparing the next generation of farmers through hands-on education. Activities will include convening a Farm to School Advisory Group of students, faculty, and farmers; adopting procurement policies that prioritize local food purchases directly from local farms and food hubs; creating toolkits for farms and child nutrition programs; developing new locally sourced produce items for ASD menus; and expanding student learning through farm and greenhouse field trips, worksite learning, and integrating taste tests of locally grown produce into culinary clubs and health classes.

Okanogan Conservation District – $500,000
Okanogan, WA (Cohort 1)

Okanogan Conservation District will partner with Oroville School District and Classroom in Bloom to implement a comprehensive farm to CNP initiative that expands access to locally grown foods and strengthens agricultural education at nine school-based CNP sites in Okanogan County, Washington. The project will increase producer readiness to sell into the CNP marketplace, build school capacity to procure and prepare local foods, expand schools' ability to deliver high-quality experiential agricultural education, and improve student knowledge, skills, and consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Schultz Farm and Millworks, Inc. – $313,211
Pacific Beach, WA (Cohort 1)

The Farms for Schools Project establishes a replicable model that connects local farms, schools, and communities to improve access to fresh, local foods and agricultural education. Led by Schultz Farm and Millworks in partnership with Pacific Beach Elementary School and the Capital Region ESD 113 Child Nutrition Cooperative, the initiative strengthens CNP operations through greenhouse-based science learning, local food production, and nutrition integration. Over the two project years, students at eight schools cooperating with two farms will grow seedlings in school greenhouses as part of a Next Generation Science Standards-aligned curriculum. Plants will transition to the farms for growth, harvesting, and food safety education, with the resulting produce incorporated into school meals, farm stands, and food distribution programs serving low-income families across the North Beach and Ocean Shores communities.

Snohomish Conservation District – $113,463
Lake Stevens, WA (Cohort 1)

Snohomish Conservation District's Farm to School Program will create and strengthen partnerships between schools and farms to promote agricultural education and inclusion of locally grown products in the meals of school staff and students. Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) will develop and deliver in-classroom lessons for all students at our partner elementary schools that focus on gardening, Snohomish County products and agricultural history, and the benefits of buying and eating local. After their lessons in the classroom, SCD will facilitate field trips for all students to visit a nearby farm where they can learn how their food is grown, meet the people who grow it, and tastetest various products.

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The International Rescue Committee Inc., – $434,834
SeaTac, WA (Cohort 3)

The International Rescue Committee in Seattle, in partnership with Tilth Alliance and Seattle Public Schools, leads the Connecting for Health: Schools, Families, and Farm Businesses (C4H) to expand and deepen farm to school efforts across Seattle and King County. This project will scale local food procurement and agricultural education within child nutrition programs (CNPs), strengthening the capacity of small and family farmers to supply fresh, locally produced fruits and vegetables to schools. Key activities include technical assistance and training for farmers, experiential learning opportunities for students, food preference assessments to inform crop planning and school menus, and the development and support of school gardens. The project will also facilitate business partnerships between farmers and CNP operators, update school garden curricula, and host events that connect students, families, and community members with local agriculture. Anticipated outcomes include increased farmer participation in CNP procurement, stronger partnerships between school districts and local producers, and measurable improvements in the nutritional quality of meals served to children. The project aims to enhance student engagement with agriculture, foster long-term healthy eating habits, and build sustainable local food systems. Project partners bring extensive experience in agricultural education, market access, and youth engagement, ensuring effective implementation and lasting impact for students, families, and the regional farming community.

West Virginia

Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. – $254,704
Wheeling, WV (Cohort 1)

Grow Ohio Valley proposes the Local Food Access for Youth Farm to School Project to expand access to fresh, locally grown foods and provide high-quality agricultural and nutrition education to students in Ohio County Schools. Funding will support the hiring and onboarding of a farm to school programming manager to lead curriculum development, coordinate procurement, and implement student learning experiences. The project is strengthened by key partners including Ohio County Schools, Oak Hill Farm, and West Liberty University's Karen Kettler, whose expertise in K-12 curriculum development, evaluation, and public health education will guide oversight, quality assurance, and alignment with evidence-based instructional practices.

West Virginia Food & Coalition Inc. – $500,000
Charleston, WV (Cohort 3)

This project strengthens West Virginia's farm to school system by improving access to locally sourced foods in child nutrition programs, expanding procurement capacity, and cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders. Grounded in a student-led theory of change—that districts are more responsive when students drive the work—the project deploys 12 paid interns across five county school districts to coordinate local sourcing efforts, conduct taste tests, and deliver hands-on nutrition and agriculture education to more than 2,000 students. By elevating student

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leadership, school districts gain internally-driven motivation to increase local purchasing and adopt long-term farm to school practices.

West Virginia Military Authority – $468,249
Charleston, WV (Cohort 3)

This project strengthens agricultural education, food production, and career exploration for cadets at Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy (MCA) North and South by developing robust training environments that integrate hands-on learning with cafeteria sourcing and workforce pathways. The project's purpose is to establish two fully functional agricultural education and production centers that enable cadets to grow, harvest, preserve, and utilize fresh foods while gaining marketable skills. Planned activities include purchasing and installing equipment to renovate three high tunnels at MCA North; establishing hydroponic, aeroponic, and raised bed systems; constructing trout cage culture infrastructure; and developing raised beds, cold frames, a vertical tower aeroponic range, and an urban small fruit orchard at MCA South. These improvements will prepare two complete production sites for year-round instruction and harvest.

Wisconsin

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, Inc. – $440,406
East Troy, WI (Cohort 1)

This project aims to expand the availability of locally grown foods in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) child nutrition program by strengthening procurement pathways and enhancing student agricultural education. The initiative uses a dual approach: 1) connecting Milwaukee and Wisconsin farms to MPS through the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative to increase access to fresh, local foods, and 2) engaging students through teacher training, STEM-based agricultural curriculum, hydroponic food production, and taste-testing activities. Storyboards, nutrition materials, and social media outreach will highlight project progress and connect the broader MPS community to the value of local foods.

Rooted WI, Inc. – $499,184
Madison, WI (Cohort 3)

With this project, Rooted WI, Inc. (DBA Rooted), the REAP Food Group (DBA REAP) and its partners will launch a farm to school task force of farmer support organizations and child nutrition programs (CNPs) serving over 10,000 students in Dane County, Wisconsin. The task force will strengthen local food procurement, foster collaboration across CNPs; expand farm to school educational opportunities; expand existing farmer networks and farmer support work to connect local farmers to the CNP marketplace; and provide technical support including food safety and wholesale standards. Partners will supply farmers with standardized packing materials and mobile wash-pack supplies and connect them directly with CNPs and to the Community Action Coalition Foodshed Partnership, an aggregator focused on emerging farmers and providing minimal processing, storage, and distribution.

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Appendix A: Grantees by Location and Cohort

Grantee Name	State/Territory	2026 Cohort
Adagio Health Inc.	Pennsylvania	3
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries	Alabama	1
Alaska Food Policy Council	Alaska	3
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.	Alaska	1
AMIkids, Inc.	Florida	1
Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District	Alaska	3
Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, Inc	Maryland	1
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Inc	Arkansas	3
Baltimore City Public Schools	Maryland	1
Barren County School District	Kentucky	1
Berkshire Agricultural Ventures Inc	Massachusetts	1
Bethel School District 52	Oregon	1
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver	Colorado	3
Boys & Girls Club of Martin County Inc	Florida	1
Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud	South Dakota	3
Boys & Girls Clubs of Border Towns	Maine	1
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain	North Carolina	1
Broome-Delaware-Tioga Board of Coop. Educational Services	New York	1
Center for an Agricultural Economy	Vermont	1
Champlain Valley School District	Vermont	3
Chef Ann Foundation	Colorado	1
Cherokee Nation	Oklahoma	3
Child Poverty Action Lab	Texas	1
City Blossoms Inc.	District of Columbia	3
City of Henderson	Nevada	1
Cloud City Conservation Center	Colorado	1
Common Market Georgia, Inc.	Georgia	3
Common Threads	Texas	2
Cooking with Kids, Inc.	New Mexico	3
Copper Island Academy	Michigan	1
Cornerstones of Care	Missouri	3
Council on the Environment, Inc.	New York	1
County of Johnson	Illinois	3
CultureTrust Greater Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	3
Creighton Community Foundation, Inc.	Arizona	3
Dallas County Texas	Texas	1
Dan-Harton Farm	Arkansas	3

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Grantee Name	State/Territory	2026 Cohort
Detroit Public Schools Community District	Michigan	2
EASTCONN Regional Educational Service Center Incorporated	Connecticut	1
Edens Rose Foundation	New York	3
Elmore County School District	Alabama	1
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School	District of Columbia	3
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaragus BOCES	New York	3
Evanston Grows	Illinois	2
Families Anchored in Total Harmony, Inc.	Indiana	3
Federal Way School District #210	Washington	3
Flint River Fresh Inc.	Georgia	3
Foundation for Food and Farm Connections	Missouri	1
FLIPANY	Florida	3
Flying Pig Farm	Colorado	3
Fondo de Innovacion para el Desarrollo Agricola	Puerto Rico	3
Food Strong	Ohio	3
Frontier Regional Union 38 School District	Massachusetts	3
Frankfort Independent Board of Education	Kentucky	3
Grassroots Gardens of Western New York	New York	3
Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools	Indiana	3
Groton Board of Education	Connecticut	2
Grow Ohio Valley, Inc.	West Virginia	1
Growe Foundation	Colorado	1
GROW LEAP FOUNDATION	North Carolina	3
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Inc.	Michigan	3
Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek	California	3
Gulf of Maine Research Institute	Maine	3
Gwinnett County Public Schools	Georgia	3
Health and Senior Services, Missouri Department of	Missouri	3
Healthy Communities of the Capital Area	Maine	1
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids Inc	Delaware	1
High Desert Partnership	Oregon	3
Highland Youth Garden, Inc.	Ohio	3
Honoré Farm and Mill	California	1
Iowa City Community School District	Iowa	1
Iowa Department of Education	Iowa	1
J Bar J Youth Services Inc	Oregon	3
Jewell School District #8	Oregon	2
Kansas State Department of Education	Kansas	3
Keiki and Plow	Hawaii	3

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Grantee Name	State/Territory	2026 Cohort
KidsGardening.org, Inc	Vermont	3
Living Well Kent Collaborative	Washington	3
Madison Consolidated Schools	Indiana	1
Magoffin County School District Finance Corp	Kentucky	3
Maine Department of Education	Maine	3
Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc.	New Jersey	3
Maryland Department of Agriculture	Maryland	3
Marysville USD 364	Kansas	1
Metro Early College High School	Ohio	3
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute Inc	Wisconsin	1
Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Inc.	Michigan	3
Midtown Partners Inc.	Mississippi	3
Mississippi Community Housing Development Organization	Mississippi	2
Montana Land to Hand	Montana	2
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District	Michigan	2
NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN)	New Mexico	1
National Center for Frontier Communities	New Mexico	3
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan	Michigan	3
Nebraska Department of Education	Nebraska	3
Need More Acres Farm LLC	Kentucky	1
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	New York	1
NOPI-Nonprofit Incubator	Massachusetts	3
Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network	Tennessee	1
Ocean Mental Health Services, Inc.	New Jersey	3
Ogallala Commons Inc	Colorado	3
Ohio Department of Education and Workforce	Ohio	3
Okanogan Conservation District	Washington	1
Ontario Local School District	Ohio	3
Oregon Farm to School Network	Oregon	3
Pennsylvania Beef Council	Pennsylvania	2
Perry Central Community School Corporation	Indiana	1
Plenitud Iniciativas Eco-Educativas, Inc.	Puerto Rico	3
Plymouth Community School Corporation	Indiana	3
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	Kansas	3
Providers Choice, Inc.	Minnesota	1
RECIPE FOR SUCCESS FOUNDATION	Texas	3
Recirculating Farms Coalition, Inc.	Lousiana	3
ReGenerative Roots Association	New Hampshire	3

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Grantee Name	State/Territory	2026 Cohort
Reunity Resources	New Mexico	3
Ridge to Reefs	Maryland	1
Rooted WI, Inc.	Wisconsin	3
Rural Development Leadership Network	Alabama	3
School Board of Miami-Dade County, FL	Florida	3
School District of Orange County, FL	Florida	3
Schultz Farm and Millworks, Inc.	Washington	1
Snohomish Conservation District	Washington	1
Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project	California	3
Star of the Sea Foundation	Florida	1
STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	New Mexico	3
Sustainable Solano Inc.	California	1
Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona	Arizona	2
The Earths Table LLC	California	3
The Farm School at Gibbs Road Inc.	Kansas	1
The Farm School, Inc.	Massachusetts	1
The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia	Georgia	3
The Food Trust	Pennsylvania	2
The International Rescue Committee Inc.	Washington	3
The Semilla Project	New Mexico	2
The Trust for Public Land	California	1
Trellis for Tomorrow	Pennsylvania	2
Umpqua Valley Farm to School	Oregon	1
Urban Sprouts	Missouri	3
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	Utah	1
West Virginia Food & Coalition Inc	West Virginia	3
West Virginia Military Authority	West Virginia	3
Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools	Virginia	3
Winfield Farms LLC	Virginia	2
Woodbury City Public Schools	New Jersey	2
Working Landscapes	North Carolina	3
WSBZ Farms	Arkansas	2
Yellow Farmhouse Education Center	Connecticut	1
Youth & Opportunity United, Inc.	Illinois	3
Yupiit School District	Alaska	1

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