



**PATRICK LEAHY FARM TO
SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2026
LIST OF AWARDEES (Cohort 1)**

April 2026

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Alabama

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries – \$388,570

Montgomery, AL

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 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 child nutrition professionals to incorporate local products into school menus. Expected outcomes for local sourcing initiatives include an increase in local purchases by schools by 15% 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

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% fruit puree products for K–12 meals.

Alaska

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. – \$158,289

Anchorage, AK

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.

Yupit School District - \$219,107

Akiachak, AK

The Yupit School District is launching an implementation and partnership project, Elitnaurat natluginiritut 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.

California

Honoré Farm and Mill – \$151,424

Larkspur, CA

This project increases access to healthy, local, sustainably grown whole grains for California students by connecting regional wheat farmers with child nutrition programs 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.

Sustainable Solano Inc. – \$366,597

Vallejo, CA

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

The Trust for Public Land – \$344,257

San Francisco, CA

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

Chef Ann Foundation – \$500,000

Boulder, CO

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% 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

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.

Grove Foundation – \$117,309

Louisville, CO

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 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.

Connecticut

EASTCONN Regional Educational Service Center Incorporated – \$116,858

Hampton, CT

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.

Yellow Farmhouse Education Center – \$428,055

Stonington, CT

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

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.

Florida

AMIkids, Inc. – \$369,942

Tampa, FL

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% 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

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 FY2024 Farm to School Turnkey Grant's Action Plan in the Martin County region via four eligible child nutrition program 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 the organization for full implementation, establishing its USDA food program as a consistently reliable market for Martin County agricultural producers.

Star of the Sea Foundation – \$103,375

Key West, FL

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.

Iowa

Iowa City Community School District – \$498,259

Iowa City, IA

Iowa City Community School District's (ICCS) 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. ICCS 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, ICCS 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 ICCS's CNPs and increase local food options for breakfast and lunch.

Iowa Department of Education – \$215,193

Des Moines, IA

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 school 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 school partnerships at all levels across the state.

Indiana

Madison Consolidated Schools – \$221,250

Madison, IN

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% 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

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.

Kansas

Marysville USD 364 – \$469,066

Marysville, KS

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 the 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.

The Farm School at Gibbs Road Inc. – \$216,624

Kansas City, KS

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 inclusive 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

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.

Need More Acres Farm LLC – \$264,391

Scottsville, KY

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.

Massachusetts

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures Inc – \$180,133

Great Barrington, MA

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.

The Farm School, Inc. – \$340,794

Athol, MA

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.

Maryland

Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, Inc. - \$255,625

Mt. Lake Park, MD

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%, increasing local food procurement from 0% to 20% 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

The Food and Nutrition Services department of Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) will launch a Harvest of the Month @ 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.

Ridge to Reefs - \$290,176

Sykesville, MD

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.

Maine

Boys & Girls Clubs of Border Towns - \$348,000

Presque Isle, ME

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.

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area - \$465,270

Hallowell, ME

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.

Michigan

Copper Island Academy– \$118,408

Calumet, MI

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.

Minnesota

Providers Choice, Inc. – \$100,000

Minneapolis, MN

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.

Missouri

Foundation for Food and Farm Connections – \$158,180

Truxton, MO

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 Opa! 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.

New Mexico

NACA Inspired Schools Network - \$500,000

Albuquerque, NM

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.

Nevada

City of Henderson - \$150,000

Henderson, NV

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 York

Broome-Delaware-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services – \$383,464

Endicott, NY

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

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.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – \$449,760

Albany, NY

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

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain is expanding its farm to school 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.

Oregon

Bethel School District 52 – \$131,322

Eugene, OR

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 school 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.

Umpqua Valley Farm to School – \$234,206

Roseburg, OR

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.

Tennessee

Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network – \$500,000

Maritn, TN

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%. 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 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

This program will impact students and community members living in Dallas County, Texas, where there remains a significant need to expand farm to school 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 student-generated recipes, producer engagement resources, and bi-annual evaluation reports.

Dallas County Texas – \$371,429

Dallas, TX

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 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.

Utah

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food – \$375,000

Salt Lake City, UT

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

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 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.

Washington

Okanogan Conservation District – \$500,000

Okanogan, WA

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

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

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 taste-test various products.

West Virginia

Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. - \$254,704

Wheeling, WV

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.

Wisconsin

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, Inc. – \$440,406

East Troy, WI

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.