



Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2024 | List of Awardees

July 2024

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Alabama

Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama – \$50,000

Huntsville, AL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The James A. Lane Boys & Girls Club in Huntsville, Alabama will implement a farm to school initiative designed to educate and engage students in sustainable agriculture practices. This program will impact students ages 5-18 by providing them with hands-on experience in gardening, nutrition, cooking, an understanding of sustainable farming, and basic business skills. The project will involve key partners such as Cyn Shea's, 4-H, Hudson Alpha, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. They will develop a comprehensive curriculum covering various aspects of sustainable gardening and agribusiness management. This includes understanding soil health, composting, water conservation, plant biology, crop selection, gardening techniques, and pest management. Students will also learn about harvesting, post-harvest handling, quality control, food safety, cooking, and will gain practical business skills by setting up and managing farm stands or participating in local markets.

Druid City Garden Project – \$50,000

Tuscaloosa, AL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Schoolyard Roots, a garden education non-profit based in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, will generate new curriculum for its Gardens 2 Schools program with garden lessons that incorporate social emotional learning and culturally responsive learning. Twelve new lessons will be developed and shared with over 4,500 students in K-5 grades at 12 partner schools across two school districts, the Tuscaloosa City Schools and the Tuscaloosa County School System. After 12 years of implementing the Gardens 2 Schools program, Schoolyard Roots has learned that school gardens are not only an ideal space for students to grow in their academic capabilities, but they also provide fertile ground for social-emotional growth and cultural awareness.

Alaska

Alaska Gateway School District – \$49,979

Tok, AK

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Due to the remote location of the Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) and the lack of agriculture in the State of Alaska, the majority of the food for school meals is imported from out-of-State. These foods are of lesser quality and lower nutritional value than locally grown produce. AGSD aims to increase the amount of locally grown food for its predominantly low income student population. The mission of this project is to expand the school district's growing area and develop a food preservation system. This project will allow the implementation of a larger amount of locally grown nutritious foods throughout the school year in the lunch program, and increase the community's food security.

Anchorage School District – \$49,817

Anchorage, AK

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Anchorage School District's Student Nutrition department will partner with key stakeholders including RurAL Cap and Alaska Food Company to develop a Farm to School Action Plan with the goal of increasing consumption of locally sourced fresh food by 20 percent at participating farm to school sites to include Taku Elementary, Ursa Minor Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Wendler Middle School, and Dimond High School.

Arizona

Desert Mission, Inc. – \$37,695

Phoenix, AZ

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Desert Mission Lincoln Learning Center (DM LLC) is a licensed, accredited childcare and early education program that participates in CACFP providing 221 children from six weeks to 12 years of age a solid groundwork for academic success through learning opportunities. Through the Lincoln Learning Center: Nourishing Minds and Bodies project, DM LLC will expand upon existing farm to school initiatives with the aim to achieve greater consistency and frequency in the delivery of agricultural and garden-based education. The curriculum developed will empower educators across all ten classrooms to confidently plan and lead experiences that integrate farm/garden to table techniques using culturally reflective recipes/foods. Key partners vital to the success of this project include the DM LLC educators and staff as well as community partners at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health and Sun Produce Cooperative.

Mollen Foundation for Childhood Obesity – \$99,742

Phoenix, AZ

Grant Type: Implementation

Mollen Foundation will implement the Arizona Farm to School Institute and support eight school or district teams of five across the four regions of Arizona to build and implement a place-based action plan rooted in the three C's: Classroom, Cafeteria, Community, adapted from Vermont FEED's evidenced based model. Teams will engage in a three-day retreat, workshops, expert panels and be paired with a coach to support them with guidance and tailored technical assistance throughout the year long action plan cycle. Teams will focus on their unique landscape, culture, and climate to implement an action that increases local food and provides opportunities for agriculture education. Key collaborators include the Arizona Farm to School Leadership, Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Department of Agriculture, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and Pinnacle Prevention.

Painted Desert Demonstration Projects DBA The STAR School – \$88,000

Flagstaff, AZ

Grant Type: Implementation

The STAR School will implement school gardening and livestock programs. The school gardens encompass a composting program, greenhouses, outdoor gardens, and fruit trees, all of which are on the campus just a few miles from the Navajo Nation outside of Flagstaff in Northern Arizona. The STAR School student population is 98 percent Native American, and the students are heavily involved in the garden program from planting, watering, harvesting, to cooking fresh produce. The school will also start a livestock program and have an area dedicated to sheep, cattle, and chickens on the campus where students can learn about taking care of animals and raising them for food.

Arkansas

Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs – \$75,000

Fort Smith, AR

Grant Type: Implementation

The Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club will advance their and the Fort Smith School District's Child Nutrition Programs via the Club's Gardening Program by integrating agriculture, education, and cooking in a fun, hands-on environment. In total, the Fort Smith School District serves 14,060 students (63.257 percent nonwhite People of Color), all of whom receive fresh vegetables from the Club's Gardening Program. Additional community partners include the City of Fort Smith and the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education who provide compost, recycling bins, education on microbes and living soil, volunteers, and meal planning between both entities. Children at the Fort Smith School District and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club receive nutritionally elevated meals by integrating fresh, local vegetables into Child Nutrition Programs, increasing access to agriculture activities, and integrating families into cooking activities. This holistic approach to SFSP and CACFP programs increases engagement and success rates.

Nettleton Public Schools – \$44,115

Jonesboro, AR

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Nettleton Public Schools will expand school gardens in two of its elementary schools—STEAM Elementary and STEAM Intermediate. Both schools currently operate school gardens and are in the beginning stages of offering food from the gardens in school meals and snacks. The project funding will also help increase the variety and quantity of foods that Nettleton Public Schools will be able to grow and provide in its meal offerings. Funds will be used to construct greenhouses, purchase necessary supplies, perform maintenance on STEAM Intermediate's hydroponics stations, and pay a stipend for a Summer Farm Camp teacher. Nettleton Public Schools has identified Lost Creek Flower as a community partner to provide agricultural assistance. The Nettleton Public Schools district leadership, Food Service department, and Agriculture department are also fully in support of the farm to school program.

California

Butte County Local Food Network – \$93,538

Chico, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

“Growing Resilient Optimism with Nature” (GROWN), a project of the Butte County Local Food Network, increases access to local foods for low-income, fire-affected students and communities in Paradise, California, through local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. To increase local sourcing for Paradise school meals, GROWN facilitates business relationships between local farmers and Paradise Unified School District Food Services staff. To improve Paradise students’ access to agricultural education, GROWN maintains established learning gardens at two Title 1 schools in Paradise: Achieve Charter School of Paradise and Ridgeview High School. These school garden sites support on-site agricultural education lessons conducted by GROWN staff.

California Department of Food & Agriculture – \$100,000

Sacramento, CA

Grant Type: State Agency

The project will use grant funds to host eight in-person regional gatherings across California to improve access to local foods in eligible Child Nutrition Program sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. Regional gatherings will serve the following farm to school stakeholders: school nutrition programs, educators, food producers, supply chain partners, and farm to school support organizations. The project team is an existing partnership of four organizations, all deeply connected to farm to school stakeholders across the State in varying capacities. The project will be led by the California Department of Food and Agriculture - Farm to School Program and will include the following partners: California Department of Education, California Department of Public Health, and California School Nutrition Association.

Community Alliance with Family Farmers – \$89,515

Davis, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Community Alliance with Family Farmer’s Bid Generator platform is the first software to host the entire bid process for public institutions; it has changed the face of school procurement. A free, open-sourced technological solution, it automates the creation of federally mandated bid solicitations for school food. Technology is an iterative process. In response to school food service needs, they will 1) expand product categories beyond solely produce to include things like grocery, proteins, and dairy; 2) add scoring criteria and the JUST BIPOC Sourcing framework and resources to ease purchasing from historically underserved producers; and 3) provide technical assistance and connections to producers to implement awarded bids thus facilitating farm to school sales. Through expanded category and scoring capabilities, increased use, and easing sourcing from historically underserved producers, they will increase local procurement and student access to healthy local foods at five school districts.

Eat Real Certified, Inc. – \$463,614

San Francisco, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

Eat Real and Small Bites Adventure Club will strengthen and extend the farm to school ecosystem for historically underserved communities across Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Oklahoma through this grant. The organizations will support school districts in educating teachers and families about the ease and joy of eating delicious, locally sourced foods while helping food service leaders put those foods on the cafeteria table daily. By connecting the farm to the cafeteria, classroom, and household—and continuously engaging all stakeholders in building a strategic roadmap for the expansion of the work—they will increase the availability of local foods in schools, increase market opportunity for local producers, strengthen local economies, and enable lasting community-driven change. Key partners include regional school districts, farmers, government officials, influencers, celebrity chefs, and professional athletes.

Every Neighborhood Partnership – \$98,485

Fresno, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP) will partner with Fresno Unified School District (FUSD), the third largest school district in California, to accomplish the Read Fresno Nutrition and Gardening project. The purpose of this project is to further the local procurement and agricultural education efforts of FUSD to serve students at elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods. ENP will accomplish this by providing local produce to students enrolled in the Read Fresno program, expanding an edible garden and nutrition education programming to eight additional FUSD schools, and advocating for increased local sourcing within FUSD through a collaborative evaluation of programming. ENP will also partner with Kepler Neighborhood School, a part of the Fresno County Office of Education District, to expand the school's existing edible garden nutrition education curriculum.

Fiery Ginger Farm – \$99,571

West Sacramento, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

Fiery Ginger Farm (Spork Food Hub) will work with Robla School District and Natomas Unified School District to connect their students to local food from local family farms. Students will visit Fiery Ginger Farm and learn about agriculture and how it supplies the food they eat. In their cafeterias, students will be given a voice about new foods being added to school menus through taste testing events. Spork Food Hub staff will convene forward planning meetings with food service staff to determine needs and opportunities for procurement. Additionally, Spork Food Hub staff will convene forward crop planning sessions with over 30 partner farms to fill school food needs. Spork Food Hub will also offer new BIPOC and female farmers training in crop planning and serving the wholesale marketplace to develop their ability to access the school food market and help ensure financial sustainability for their operations.

Friends of School of the Arts Foundation – \$100,000

San Francisco, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

In partnership with San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) School Nutrition Services, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, The Academy - San Francisco at McAteer, Urban Services YMCA, Foodwise, and FoodCorps, Friends of School of the Arts Foundation proposes to re-establish the McAteer Community Farm, creating a farm to school program that increases multidisciplinary agriculture education, access to local food, and sourcing and purchasing from local producers. This two-year project will engage 1,373 SFUSD high school and middle school students in agriculture education; increase the amount of fresh produce grown annually from 50 to 1,000 lbs; and incorporate food grown at the farm in school meals for over 2,491 early education and high school students. This project will change students' relationship with their food, establishing the only San Francisco schoolyard farm providing produce for public school meals and creating a model for replication throughout SFUSD.

Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center Inc. – \$50,000

National City, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center's Improving Agricultural Education for National School District through School Gardens Program will provide standards-based, experiential, school garden-based lessons for 4,700 TK - 6th grade students.

Pasadena Unified School District – \$50,000

Pasadena, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Pasadena Unified School District will design and establish a new educational component of its well-established Farm to School program. The project's objectives are to 1) create a new, five-week Agro-Ecology high school summer class; 2) develop work-based learning experiences for students in agriculture, food preparation, nutritional services, and agricultural business; and 3) increase student voice and representation in decision-making farm to school councils and teams that impact their education, health and well-being, and sense of community. The goals are for high school students to gain knowledge and develop practical skills in agricultural science, nutritional science, food systems and preparation, and related fields, and to prepare them for college and career.

San Diego Youth Services – \$50,000

San Diego, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

San Diego Youth Services will develop the edible food production capacity of the Spring Valley East Community Center Garden by improving irrigation, expanding the size of garden plots and arable soil on site, and sourcing, introducing, and maintaining a variety of fruit and vegetable plants and trees. The produce raised through these efforts will supplement the on-site Child and Adult Care Food Program operated by All Kids Academy Head Start, providing youth with fresh, healthy foods, and the garden will be accessible to Head Start students. Yard to Table Creations will provide project expertise

in the design and execution of the edible garden expansion. As the lead organization, San Diego Youth Services will provide project management and handle all financial budgeting and oversight.

Sequoia Union Elementary School District – \$50,000

Lemon Cove, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Sequoia Union School Farm Advisory Team will offer hands-on learning experiences that encompass all aspects of planting, raising, harvesting, processing, cooking, and consuming agricultural products. They will install irrigation, including all parts and labor, as well as the purchase of harvesting bins, garden carts, and harvesting shears. Following installation of irrigation, initial planting of the row crop area of the farm will commence. First year crops will include pumpkins, squash, corn, leafy greens and herbs. Pumpkins will largely be used for agricultural education purposes, while squash, corn, leafy greens, and herbs will be utilized in school prepared meals served to 375 K-8 Sequoia Union students.

Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project – \$98,063

Rancho Cordova, CA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Growing Together Project will create a full-circle farm to school experience for urban youth in the under-resourced community of Rancho Cordova, located in the Sacramento Valley region of California. K-12 students in eight Rancho Cordova schools will enjoy access to fresh local produce in school cafeterias for the first time ever, dig into regular school garden learning, and learn about the power of healthy eating during veggie celebration events. Teen and college internships will be expanded to create cross-age farm to school interactions, with older students educating their younger peers and supporting the school district's unique career pathway in food and agriculture. The partnerships involved include Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project, Folsom Cordova Unified School District's Food Services Department, Cordova High School Career Technical Education Programs, and California State University, Sacramento.

Turning Green – \$50,000

Sausalito, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Conscious Kitchen, a program operated by Turning Green, works to transform meal programs in Bay Area, Central Coast, and other California school districts engaging college-level food systems leaders, interns and fellows to transform school meal service. This project aims to reach more interested school districts and transform more food systems by involving more college students in the collaborative changemaking process. The Conscious Kitchen College Cohorts will work with K-12 nutrition teams to increase fresh, local, organic produce procurement and enhance hands-on educational initiatives. The Conscious Kitchen Ambassadors Program engages K-12 students in food systems, justice, and advocacy, while teaching the benefits of sustainable, nutritious, and climate-smart agriculture. Conscious Kitchen's successful model fosters cross-generational knowledge transfer and leadership in the food sector.

Upland Unified School District – \$50,000

Upland, CA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Upland Unified School District Nutrition Services will work with community staff from University of California Cooperative Extension, San Bernardino County Farm Bureau, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Sustainable Claremont to establish an Edible Garden team to increase production. Through feasibility studies including water and soil quality testing, the Edible Garden team will determine the best sites for production gardens. The team will participate in training focused on garden health and post-harvest produce handling and will develop standard operating procedures and guides to ensure the highest quality produce is being served in the cafeteria. Central Kitchen Leads will be consulted to prioritize the best choices for seasonally grown produce. Upland Unified School District will also hire a Garden Production Specialist to oversee garden operations and update protocols.

Colorado

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver – \$99,000

Denver, CO

Grant Type: Implementation

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) aims to empower Club members (grades K-12) by providing a safe, supportive environment. Through afterschool and summer programs in four core program areas, Academic Success, Character & Leadership, Healthy Lifestyles, and Mental Health. The proposed project expands the Healthy Lifestyles program within five school based clubs in Aurora Public Schools. This initiative enhances access to local foods, generates sourcing and purchasing from local and regional producers, and increases access to agriculture education/experiences. BGCMD, aligning with USDA's Farm to School initiative, will engage program providers to promote nutrition, career exploration, and agricultural experiences to approximately 1,000 club members annually.

Colorado Charter School Institute – \$21,046

Denver, CO

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Colorado Early Colleges Farm to School program, known as Growing Gardens: Growing Lives, is based upon the components of classrooms, kitchens, and communities, offering students of all backgrounds meaningful, hands-on opportunities in gardening, cooking, healthy eating, and local food systems. Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) hosts on-site school gardens at Fort Collins Middle School, Fort Collins High School, and Windsor 6-12 that students help design, plant, and tend. Through collaboration with the community including Colorado State University and Sproutin' Up, this grant will permit CEC's Farm to School program to form a more comprehensive garden team while improving garden and kitchen infrastructure, thereby increasing their program's strength and sustainability in achieving their mission: to empower students to positively impact their communities through local food relationships while cultivating life skills and a deeper understanding of personal health and wellbeing.

Evans Early Childhood LLC – \$50,000

Fort Morgan, CO

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Evans Early Childhood will employ Innovation, Elevation, and Partnerships in their work for the Edible Garden Project: Evans Early Childhood STEM Greenhouse Bus. For this project the wheels on the bus do not go “round and round” but, rather this stationary bus becomes a greenhouse learning lab! The greenhouse will be a place to immerse all young children in the community in farm to child learning, using traditional container growing methods, aquaponics, and tower gardening. The project’s key partners include Kembel Acres and Debbie’s Toy Closet. Through dynamic relationships with local growers, community non-profit organizations, and children and families in the community, Evans Early Childhood will make the health, educational, social emotional, and sensory benefits of gardening accessible to many!

Flying Pig Farm – \$96,057

Manitou Springs, CO

Grant Type: Implementation

Flying Pig Farm is a two acre urban farm whose mission is to cultivate resilient relationships with food and natural systems through land-based learning. They will utilize grant funding to expand their farm to school programming to reach more students in the Pikes Peak region, primarily in Manitou Springs School District 14 and Colorado Springs School District 11. With the support of this grant, they plan to expand their services to reach over 1,500 students in the 2024-25 school year and up to 2,000 in the 2025-26 school year. They take a multi-faceted, community-based approach to increasing access and engagement with local and regional food, as well as teaching young people the basic skills of agricultural, soil-based food cultivation.

Mountain Roots Food Project – \$49,998

Gunnison, CO

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

In the rural Colorado mountain community, Mountain Roots Food Project will connect students to the sources of their food by expanding existing farm to school environmental education programming into middle school science classes in the Gunnison Watershed School District RE1J. The project will A) provide schools with hydroponic growing technology; B) develop and deliver science education lessons for middle schoolers, including a field trip to their hydroponic container farms; C) incorporate greens grown by students into cafeteria meals; and D) launch a regular internship (work-study) each semester to a high school student to work in the Hydroponic Farms, Infinity Greens, to receive additional training/experience and to further explore hydroponic farming as a potential career. This project will incorporate experiential, future-forward opportunities in science, sustainability, food production, and agricultural careers.

San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition – \$49,941

Alamosa, CO

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition’s project, “Agricultural Education at the Rio Grande Farm Park and Beyond,” will bridge a divide between students in south-central Colorado and their food sources, fostering an understanding of agriculture and potentially inspiring future careers in the field. The Coalition will work alongside the Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa School District, and additional regional partners to formalize curriculum, revitalize educational gardens and greenhouses, and promote regenerative farming practices and local food consumption.

Connecticut

Capitol Region Education Council – \$100,000

Hartford, CT

Grant Type: Implementation

The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) plans to equip a production kitchen for its early childhood facility in Windsor, Connecticut. This production kitchen will be used to receive, prepare, and distribute food from local farms to eligible schools and programs in the area. CREC anticipates that, once complete, the production kitchen will allow CREC to facilitate the processing and delivery of locally grown food from area farms to CREC Head Start and other Early Childhood programs both in the Wolcott facility and in surrounding communities. Prepared meals will be transported in temperature-controlled secure vans to over 400 children in CREC programs in the area.

New Britain Roots – \$97,927

New Britain, CT

Grant Type: Implementation

Connecticut Farm to School Institute is a comprehensive statewide year-long learning professional learning opportunity for school or district teams that builds capacity in school communities by bringing together food service staff, educators, administrators, and community partners to develop their farm to school programs and helps to bring more Connecticut grown food into the cafeteria and classroom. The CT Farm to School Institute will share knowledge and best practices for team members to engage with students in hands-on farm to school educational experiences, strengthen relationships between local farms and schools, and improve the local food system and economy through the growth of local procurement and food education at schools. Founding partners for CT Farm to School Institute are CT Farm to School Collaborative, FoodCorps CT, and New Britain ROOTS.

Delaware

SNAC Garden Foundation – \$99,659

Millsboro, DE

Grant Type: Implementation

The SNAC Garden Foundation's proposed project encompasses two integral programs aimed at transforming the community's relationship with food, sustainability, and agriculture education. The project will support the program implementation of the existing garden-based education programs, the SNAC Gardens, at four schools in the Indian River School District, in addition to the establishment of the SNAC Farm Hub, a youth-run school farm and summer technical training course at one of these existing partner schools, Howard T. Ennis. These initiatives will benefit a diverse demographic, including students from low-income backgrounds, Hispanic/Latino communities, and students with special educational needs, aiming to improve food education, sustainability, and agricultural opportunities within the Indian River School District.

Florida

Boys & Girls Club of Martin County Inc – \$50,000

Hobe Sound, FL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County is the largest youth services provider in Martin County. They will partner with a diverse variety of community-based programs as well as local and regional food producers to plan an expansive program that will create a more robust ecosystem to support food distribution and preparation, maximize local resources, reduce costs and educate youth and their families about the health and economic benefits of farm to table.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hernando County, Inc. – \$49,198

Spring Hill, FL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The "Nourishing Roots" project is dedicated to addressing the unique needs of Club member families by establishing a distinctive program that provides accessible, healthy, locally grown foods for youth. In collaboration with the community and Hernando County Schools, the initiative focuses on cultivating microgreens—an excellent source of flavor and nutrition—within indoor spaces in schools. This innovative approach not only overcomes spatial constraints but also empowers youth to explore plant cultivation, fostering self-sufficiency and a deeper understanding of nutrition. Through engaging hands-on activities such as taste-testing, growing microgreens, cooking demonstrations and projects, as well as business opportunities, the project aims to create a lasting connection with wholesome ingredients, promoting healthier lifestyles and community engagement among the youth.

School Board of Duval County – \$100,000

Jacksonville, FL

Grant Type: Implementation

Duval County Public Schools partners with the Mayport Aquaculture Expansion project to install and integrated aquaponics operation at Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School. This project will purchase and install the aquaponics system, train agriscience instructors, and cultivate partnerships with local nonprofits to distribute crop yields to local residents. The project is an implementation project that includes both local sourcing and agricultural education.

School District of Manatee County – \$37,250

Bradenton, FL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Manatee County Farm to School Garden Program will establish the school gardens and provide a comprehensive educational experience. Students will be able to see their food grow, learn valuable lessons that fit directly into the needed standards, get hands on experience in the kitchen, learn about nutrition, and eat what they have grown in their school cafeteria. This program will increase availability of local foods used in the cafeteria and will help connect students to their food. Four Title 1 elementary schools, one Title 1 middle school, and one high school will grow a crop that will be utilized in the cafeteria as part of the National School Lunch Program. The gardens will be used for math, science, and nutrition education lessons and the produce grown will be brought into the school kitchen where students will create recipes for taste testing as well as being placed on the school menu.

Star of the Sea Foundation – \$49,292

Key West, FL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Star of the Sea Foundation will enhance and expand farm to school programming to reach more than 3,000 students at K-12 public schools and summer camps in Key West. They plan to include 16 interactive lessons for 5th graders with aeroponic gardening, guest speakers, and local farm visits. The Star of the Sea Foundation will also conduct school-wide initiatives at all four public schools: bi-annual taste test events featuring Florida-grown produce and bi-monthly Lunch and Learns where students will learn how the food in their cafeteria was grown. Star of the Sea Foundation will lead a four-week version of the curriculum at local Boys and Girls Club summer camps, where Star of the Sea Foundation serves nutritious meals.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida – \$50,000

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Broward County Public Schools aims to enhance agricultural literacy and sustainability through the Broward's Urban Bounty program in partnership with key organizations. This program equips six schools to incorporate garden herbs into cafeteria meals. Funds will be used to procure and install materials for harvesting and cleaning the bounty in compliance with regulations and in accordance with food safety plans. Each site will have a diverse Edible Garden Team who will be trained and have

ongoing access to online video resources. This initiative is designed to set a precedent for fostering healthy food choices and environmental stewardship among Broward's diverse student population. Program evaluation will be ongoing through surveys and site visits.

Georgia

LIT Academy Inc. – \$48,798

Conyers, GA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

LIT Academy will establish a Farm to School Action Planning Team. The organization is led by Black staff serving a population historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by poverty - 92 percent Black and 65 percent eligible for free or reduced meals. The team of stakeholders that will contribute to planning includes Secure Foundation Ministries, teachers, parents, food service staff, and agriculture and nutrition professionals that will meet monthly to collaborate on a comprehensive plan that mirrors the culture and needs of the community. The project goals include integrating food and agriculture into learning and establishing an edible garden. The project will provide resources and opportunities for key staff to acquire the essential education and training to successfully implement a farm to school program for Early Learning Centers, After School, and At-Risk Teen Programs.

Newton County Foundation for Educational Excellence – \$94,531

Covington, GA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Newton County Foundation for Educational Excellence will partner with the Newton County Public School System, a Georgia school district serving rural and suburban communities. Newton County Foundation for Educational Excellence and Newton County Schools will partner with an agriculture and nutrition education provider (Small Bites Adventure Club) and a local Newton County farm, Love is Love Farm Cooperative, to offer a first-of-its-kind "5 by 5 Veggie-Ready Certification" program for Newton County Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Eight hundred and eighty students and their teachers will participate in in-classroom agriculture education, visit a local farm, taste test local food in the school cafeteria, and receive a certificate of program completion. Additional farm to school opportunities will be accessible to all schools and students, including farm to school mini grants, Family Farm Days, a farm to school educational video, and workshops for school nutrition managers and staff, students, and families.

Quality Care for Children – \$50,000

Atlanta, GA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Quality Care For Children uses Georgia's Harvest of the Month calendar as an education tool to ensure children are introduced to a variety of local fruits and vegetables. With this funding, Quality Care For Children will develop a standards-aligned curriculum of classroom activities that will supplement and reinforce nutrition education.

Guam

Farm to Table-Guam, Corp. – \$100,000

Yigo, Guam

Grant Type: Implementation

Farm to Table Guam is a non profit organization that will collaborate with the Guam Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs to increase the participation of school children grade K-12 in farm-based agricultural education activities. The project will provide the necessary resources in order to conduct educational field trips, provide hands-on learning opportunities, and offer local food taste tests, connecting the students with food and strengthening their knowledge about agriculture, the environment, and nutrition. The district consists of 41 schools with more than 90 percent of students being Pacific Islander and Asian. The project anticipates reaching at least 500 students.

Hawaii

Arts and Sciences Center – \$50,000

Pahoa, HI

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Arts and Sciences Center (ASC), in partnership with The Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences, will use the Edible Gardens Project to plan, implement, and evaluate a food production operation, with the goal to increase the yield in the existing school garden in order to directly supply the school kitchen with fresh fruit and vegetables. ASC will direct funding to improve coordination between the kitchen and the garden, and to find student-focused systems that can help scale up the production of the garden. Focus will be on a place-based perspective that foregrounds fruit and vegetables suited to Hawaii's climate, and cultural practices that honor the land and its abundance. As a rural, remote community, with the highest food insecurity index in Hawaii, and annual income in the lowest tiers, this project aims to use educational opportunities and the sun and rain of Hawaii to help increase access to healthy, local food, connecting students to the land, their community, and each other.

Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture – \$95,790

Kapaau, HI

Grant Type: Implementation

Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) is addressing the critical issue in Hawai'i Island public schools, where only 1.25 percent of food is locally-sourced, falling short of the State's mandate of 30 percent by 2030. In collaboration with Kohala Food Hub, North Kohala public schools and other stakeholders, HIP Ag is establishing a student-led garden-to-cafeteria supply chain and integrating agricultural education into curriculum. These efforts will actively engage students in experiential learning through recipe development featuring their produce, school-wide taste-testing events, culinary workshops, farm field trips, and internship/mentorship programs. These comprehensive efforts aim not only to provide a nutritious and student-friendly cafeteria menu, but also to inspire and nurture Hawai'i's future food and agriculture leaders, laying the groundwork for a resilient,

nutritionally empowered community, and setting a standard for a sustainable community-driven food system in Hawai'i and beyond.

Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services – \$99,960

Honolulu, HI

Grant Type: Implementation

The goal of the Kōkua Kalihi Valley's "HALE 'Aina" (Feeding their Home) project is to strengthen relationships among farmers, school administrators, cafeteria staff, and families to increase demand for and expand locally-sourced and culturally-relevant food services within Kalihi's school districts. Its objectives are to 1) increase locally grown foods and recipes rooted in Kalihi's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage in school lunch offerings; 2) enrich school curricula on culturally relevant foods; 3) increase local food sourcing for students and families while advancing knowledge of the local food economy; and 4) disseminate results to district and State school administrators to support food-systems policy change. The project will increase local demand, sourcing, and agricultural education by nurturing a culture of community abundance, healthy eating, sustainability, and reciprocity based in Kalihi's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander traditions.

Illinois

Just Roots – \$50,000

Chicago, IL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Just Roots and Strassburg Elementary will collaborate over a two year period to co-create a farm to school action plan in support of students in Sauk Village, Illinois. The action planning team will consist of key Just Roots staff, Strassburg Elementary administrators and teachers, and community leaders. The planning process will be informed by community listening sessions, conversations with partner organizations, and feedback on initial program implementation. The planning team will aim to have a finalized action plan by July 2026 in order to lead full implementation of the project during the 2026-2027 school year and convene with other schools in the community who are interested in offering expanded farm to school programming for their students.

School District No 116 Champaign County Illinois – \$99,500

Urbana, IL

Grant Type: Implementation

Urbana School District #116 in collaboration with Sola Gratia Farm and Champaign-Urbana Public Health District will continue their work to increase healthy, local food consumption and agricultural education opportunities for students in Urbana School District 116. Sola Gratia Farm and Champaign-Urbana Public Health District will fund a district-wide Farm to School Coordinator which has been invaluable in moving their mission forward by being the hub of information and support for the garden coordinators, teachers, administrators, Urbana School District 116's Food Service Provider, and the Wellness Committee. The Farm to School team will work to spread the knowledge, passion, and

navigation skills they've obtained to other school districts and organizations interested in starting their own farm to school programs.

Youth & Opportunity United, Inc. – \$50,000

Evanston, IL

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Youth & Opportunity United will plan, implement, and evaluate its Food, Farming, Future program. Food, Farming, Future partners with The Talking Farm, a local non-profit, will provide agricultural education to primarily low-income youth of color in Evanston, Illinois.

Indiana

At Ease Orchard LTD – \$49,935

Wilkinson, IN

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The goal of this project is to supply school nutrition programs in Indiana with local food by specifically exploring opportunities and addressing gaps for Veteran farmer participation. Promoting local food production and education opportunities within their schools cultivates a profound understanding of sustainable agriculture, fosters an appreciation for locally sourced foods, and imparts vital skills in nutrition and environmental stewardship upon their future generations. Additionally, supporting their Veterans is vital to honoring their service and fostering supportive communities. By strategically cultivating opportunities for Veteran farmers, they not only recognize their substantial contributions to their nation, but also address their unique post-service challenges.

Daleville Community Schools – \$98,000

Daleville, IN

Grant Type: Implementation

“Production Junction” will consist of an outdoor education center that is adjacent to the raised garden beds and the greenhouse. This station will consist of enough outdoor tables to host an entire grade level of students at one time. The area will have a portable outdoor shed, and outdoor seating area for the students so that they work in a space that allows them easy access to both planting and harvesting food that they grow. This area is necessary so that they can do all of the composting and movement of soil very efficiently, without causing disruption to the school environment. This area is also within the confines of the Outdoor Education Center, and that gives easy access to the orchard and other garden areas located within the fenced area. The Outdoor Orchard will continue to be used for the production of applesauce and the raised beds and greenhouse for the production of fruits and vegetables for Daleville Community Schools.

PilotED Schools of Indiana, Inc. – \$30,960

Indianapolis, IN

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Bethel Park Elementary will expand production of, and access to, edible gardens on campus. This will be accomplished through the purchase and installation of a salad bar and greenhouse. A salad bar in the school cafeteria will allow the service of food grown on campus, and a greenhouse will increase food production. Students, staff, and families will be directly impacted by this expansion, as they will be participating in the process of growing, harvest, and consumption of foods grown on campus. The project will enhance student agricultural and nutrition education experiences through increased opportunities and participation in school gardens. Key partners will include Indiana Grown for Schools Network, Aramark, and Purdue Extension- Nutrition Education Program.

Kansas

Kansas State Department of Education – \$97,896

Topeka, KS

Grant Type: State Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) proposes to offer subgrants and technical assistance for Child Nutrition Programs to implement and expand farm to school programming in Kansas. Subgrants will be utilized by Child Nutrition Programs operators to advance eligible farm to school programming activities including gardening, chicken houses, raising livestock, and more. KSDE will collaborate with K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Farm Bureau to provide technical assistance and training to subgrantees. One in-person training will take place within 100 miles of the subgrantee, followed by three virtual trainings. By pairing funding with community-specific technical assistance, these projects will meet the specific needs in each community, strengthen sub-grantee projects, and build sustainable relationships that will benefit farm to school programming in Kansas beyond the grant period.

The Farm School at Gibbs Road Inc. – \$98,382

Kansas City, KS

Grant Type: Implementation

Growing Futures Through On-Farm Education will directly impact 2,500 youth in a high need community through on-farm, hands-on learning experiences and school outreach. The project, aligned with school district career and technical education programs and educational standards, engages students from Pre-K to 12th grade in on-farm apprenticeships, field trips, and school outreach. The project ultimately seeks to improve access to local foods, strengthen the farm to school network, and cultivate futures in Kansas City, shaping the present and future for youth while offering education, hope, community, and pathways to meaningful careers in agriculture and beyond.

Louisiana

Elan Academy – \$50,000

New Orleans, LA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Elan Academy will add approximately 1,000 square feet to its school garden in order to grow foods that will be used in school meals. The specific crops and menu items will be selected by students, families, and the Child Nutrition Program contractor. In addition to raised beds, the school will add a greenhouse for starting seeds in the winter months, and a rainwater catchment/irrigation system, in order to provide students with hands-on experience around agricultural education. Finally, the project will include fencing to protect the school garden, as well its apiary, which will be used to encourage pollination.

Louisiana Department of Education – \$364,908

Baton Rouge, LA

Grant Type: State Agency

The objective of this project is to improve access to local foods in eligible Child Nutrition Program sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. To address the objective, this project will involve the development and distribution of promotional materials that will raise awareness of the farm to school online resources, promote and expand the existing Harvest of the Month program, and provide training to producers to encourage local food purchasing in schools across the State.

Maine

Alfond Youth & Community Center – \$49,291

Waterville, ME

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Alfond Youth & Community Center will significantly increase their on-site healthy food production and procurement of local produce for use in their CACFP and SFSP programs to the benefit of their approximately 140 rural, youth in their afterschool program through hiring a part-time Garden Assistant. This new position will play a key role in maximizing the yield from their 42-foot greenhouse, community garden, and more than two dozen raised beds. As over 80 percent of their afterschool program youth are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch programs, they are expanding the provision of healthy, local foods in partnership with Colby College, Johnny's Selected Seeds, and the Central Maine Gleaner's Group to combat food insecurity in Kennebec County. Youth will also tour local farms, food processing venues, and participate in taste tests and culinary activities to build and strengthen relationships with local agricultural producers and gain valuable agricultural, nutritional and culinary knowledge.

Massachusetts

Boston Area Gleaners, Inc. – \$96,684

Acton, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Boston Area Gleaners' Farm to School project, Expanding Access to Local Fresh Produce for Public Schools in Massachusetts, will increase the availability of fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables for PK-12 students in eastern Massachusetts. The project partners staff experienced in sourcing local foods with representatives of school districts, many already implementing Child Nutrition Programs and some of whom are existing partners. This team will discuss feedback about which local foods are desirable, usable, and culturally appropriate. The project team will develop order schedules that best fit each community, the produce will be sourced and packed locally and will be delivered to schools. School nutrition staff will provide activities and taste tests for the students, and Boston Area Gleaners will provide farm profiles for discussion. Several related metrics will be tracked, including, the number of students impacted, with both servings of local produce and agricultural education.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South – \$98,815

Taunton, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South will utilize funds from USDA's Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program to execute a bold expansion of its Freight Farms urban farming initiatives, increasing food system education and access to nutritious, locally-grown foods within its after school programs and throughout the broader communities of Brockton and Taunton, Massachusetts.

Codman Academy Charter Public School – \$99,700

Dorchester, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Codman Academy Charter Public School Farm to School Implementation grant project, Lettuce Grow Codman, has the aim and mission to improve its student nutrition, provide agricultural education opportunities, and help students establish a positive relationship with food, enhances classroom education through hands-on learning, outdoor education in school gardens and other educational activities related to food, health, agriculture, and nutrition. Codman Academy is located in inner-city Dorchester neighborhood and aims to increase local food procurement in the school kitchen, create healthy food habits, and provide exposure and work opportunities for high school students to see urban farming and healthy foods entrepreneurship as a viable professional path. The program will be built on the idea of youth empowerment, community partnerships, and environmental and financial sustainability built on a strong foundation of regional, local producers to increase their participation in school meals.

Growing Places Garden Project, Inc. – \$99,906

Leominster, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Growing Places is the lead applicant in "Implementing Farm to School in Fitchburg and Gardner" (F2S FiG), a project that will promote local sourcing and agricultural education in two high needs public school districts in North Central MA – Fitchburg and Gardner. Building on a Farm to School Planning Grant and new local food system infrastructure in the region, Fitchburg and Gardner Public Schools, Growing Places, and Mass Farm to School will support Fitchburg and Gardner Implementation Teams to engage staff, students, and caregivers in F2S FiG activities. Primary local procurement activities include a robust Harvest of the Month program, student recipe contests, and annual events to feature seasonal local produce from area farms and educate the community about farm to school. Agricultural Education Special Curriculum Teams for each district will develop and implement a holistic Food Literacy pathway focused on growing, farm-to-fork, the environment, and entrepreneurship.

School Garden Support Organization Network – \$319,339

Norwood, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Under the School Garden Support Organization Network's leadership, this project seeks to synthesize school garden data from schools, school districts, organizations, and government agencies across the United States. They plan to create a comprehensive, interactive map of school garden locations and support systems, compile an analysis of the current state of school gardens with a plan for community outreach, mobilization and engagement focused on BIPOC and historically marginalized communities. It will include a coalition of core partners including the National Farm to School Network, KidsGardening, the Edible Schoolyard Project, and EcoRise with the involvement of other regional and local organizations and government agencies. This project will impact and be shared with the nationwide school garden movement, including but not limited to, State department of educations, school districts, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and schools.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston – \$48,800

Boston, MA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston will develop internal structures that will formalize and expand Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston's patchwork of Club Garden programs. With advisement from a new partner, the Food Project, Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston will develop an internal agricultural curriculum, and the eight Boston Clubs will pilot the implementation of this ambitious plan. Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston plans to serve its 4,500 members (ages 6-18) with at least one hour of age-appropriate gardening, culinary, and/or related workforce learning each week during growing season.

Third Sector New England, Inc. – \$99,560

Boston, MA

Grant Type: Implementation

Massachusetts Farm to School will support innovative local food purchasing and promotion efforts for school districts across the Commonwealth. From encouraging collaborative procurement practices that remove barriers for both school nutrition directors and smaller, under-resourced farmers, to expanding food education efforts such as Harvest of the Month that integrate classroom and cafeteria based learning, this project will help affirm farm and sea to school as standard practice across the State.

Michigan

Kent Intermediate School District – \$100,000

Grand Rapids, MI

Grant Type: Implementation

Kent Intermediate School District will expand farm to school initiatives in five schools located in three school districts within the city of Wyoming, Michigan--Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools, and a center-based special education school operated directly by Kent Intermediate School District. This initiative will provide funding through a subaward to H.O.P.E. Gardens, a local nonprofit dedicated to “Helping Other People Eat” by empowering children, families, and communities to grow their own food and build skills in nutrition and sustainable living.

Kids' Food Basket – \$100,000

Grand Rapids, MI

Grant Type: Implementation

Utilizing its 10-acre farm in Ottawa County, on-site greenhouse, and learning barn, Kids' Food Basket will improve access and exposure to local foods for elementary-aged children. Kids' Food Basket will accomplish this by hosting student groups with a high percentage of students eligible to receive free or reduced-cost school meals on its farm, engaging students in farm curriculum, installing raised bed gardens, and conducting taste tests and cooking lessons to improve access to agriculture education and expose students to locally sourced foods. Key partners include Boys & Girls Club Holland, West Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Holland Language Academy, and Holland Heights.

Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Inc. – \$49,977

Freeland, MI

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

A Regional Approach to Farm to School in Rural Northeast Michigan will assemble a Farm to School Planning Committee with representatives from agriculture, food, and education in rural Northeast Michigan to conduct an inclusive and comprehensive action planning process for a regional approach to farm to school. The project partnership will be anchored by three institutions across the region that are engaged in food production, local purchasing, and classroom lessons and will engage at least six additional schools and stakeholders from each sector of the food system in the planning process. The

resulting action plan will support up to nine schools in Northeast Michigan to incorporate agricultural education activities and to leverage the Ten Cents a Meal for Michigan Kids and Farms program, resulting in more institutions buying healthy, Michigan-grown food including direct from local growers.

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan – \$100,000

Ann Arbor, MI

Grant Type: Implementation

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, in collaboration with community and State partners including Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, Michigan State University Extension, Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Michigan State Department of Education, and early care and education providers will implement the Harvesting Agricultural Knowledge, Resources, and Collaboration in Early Child Care project in rural communities in northern Michigan. The project will include a planning year to develop and implement a Farm to Early Child Care institute in year two, guided around Michigan's three pillars of farm to school--procurement, gardening, and nutrition agriculture education--as identified in Michigan's Farm to Early Child Care Network's 2023-2028 strategic plan. The Farm to Early Child Care institute will offer an interactive virtual workshop, peer to peer mentoring, and an opportunity for providers to build relationships and collaborate across the State.

Minnesota

Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes – \$100,000

Detroit Lakes, MN

Grant Type: Implementation

The Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes Hydroponic Farm Project will increase agricultural education, increase access to local foods for the Boys & Girls Club and fellow Child Nutrition Program sites, as well as generate sourcing and producing from local and regional producers. In order to achieve this, the Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes will purchase a flex connect flex farm system from Fork Farms. The flex connect system is comprised of 12 individual hydroponic towers that are all connected so that they operate as one unit. This will allow them to maximize the potential of the project and expand their scope. Their project focuses on three main aspects: agricultural education, creating an Entrepreneurial Program, and increasing local food accessibility.

Independent School District No. 625 – \$100,000

Saint Paul, MN

Grant Type: Implementation

Saint Paul Public Schools Nutrition Services is in its seventh year of leading Grow Our Own, a school garden program that develops systems to support garden-based food education. The status of garden use at 28 different schools is monitored through annual check-in communications, end-of-season site visits, an annual survey, and ad hoc monitoring via district and on-site staff. The success of Grow Our Own thus far, is attributed to the most passionate individuals dedicated to connecting Saint Paul

Public Schools students and families with hands-on opportunities for agricultural education. To engage the interested, but more reluctant tier of educators, they need structures that facilitate skill development and encourage positive risk-taking. Proposed support includes a stipend position to coordinate the garden, easily adaptable lessons aligned with the school day and growing conditions, and flexible training options for garden educators to be delivered on-site or online.

Mississippi

Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Mississippi – \$50,000

McComb, MS

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Mississippi (The Club) proposes a Farm to School Edible Gardens Project entitled "Healthy Lifestyles" on the campus with students in grades 6-12 who participate in the afterschool program. The students will create and maintain the garden while receiving agricultural and nutrition education through a partnership with Alcorn State University's Extension Program. The project will focus on increasing the availability of healthy locally grown food, connecting the students to the sources of their food, and providing nutrition education to the students, their families, and their communities. The Club serves more than 120 students on a daily basis and is a CACFP provider, providing free food and snacks to participants daily.

Midtown Partners, Inc. – \$98,041

Jackson, MS

Grant Type: Implementation

The Midtown Farm to Community Initiative will build food sovereignty and community resiliency by farming underutilized urban land in the Midtown community. Farm to Community will establish a network of urban farm sites & learning gardens, utilizing different methods of urban farming, across the Midtown neighborhood to address food insecurity by increasing the availability of locally sourced food for students and the surrounding community through comprehensive Farm to Community programming including local procurement and agricultural education. Farm to Community will directly support Midtown Public Charter School District, Little Samaritan Montessori Early Childhood Education Center, and the Midtown community impacting over 400 underserved elementary and middle school youth, and over 2,000 residents. The Midtown Farm to Community Initiative will serve as a platform for education, health, food justice advocacy, environmental stewardship, and neighborhood resiliency.

Missouri

Propel Kitchens – \$49,999

St. Louis, MO

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Propel Kitchens will work with its school partners, Atlas and City Garden, to develop and implement an agricultural education curriculum. Using the curriculum, Propel Kitchens will educate students on local and urban farms, as well as promote understanding of nutrition and connection to food sources.

Urban Sprouts – \$100,000

University City, MO

Grant Type: Implementation

Urban Sprouts is committed to an economically inclusive community, 48.2 percent of participating children qualify for free-and-reduced means according to NSLP. In cooperation with Operation Food Search and Earthdance, Urban Sprouts will expand its edible garden program to significantly increase fresh and healthy food awareness and access for children and families by adding growing space and nutritional programming.

Montana

Boys & Girls Club of Richland County – \$50,000

Sidney, MT

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Boys & Girls Club of Richland County will implement an Agricultural Education program which will be incorporated into the afterschool and summer programs of the organization. This program will utilize agricultural education curriculum that adheres to agriculture education standards. Each element of the curriculum will be tailored to the appropriate age and grade level of the participants. Key partners for the project include Richland County Extension Office, USDA Research Center, Eastern MT Agricultural Research Center, Stedman, Inc. (agricultural and livestock producer), and Dynneson Farms.

Montana Office of Public Instruction – \$339,958

Helena, MT

Grant Type: State Agency

Montana Office of Public Instruction, in cooperation with Montana Team Nutrition, will lead a statewide "Foraging the 406" Initiative to create direct purchasing routes between producers and schools. Grant activities will increase access to local foods and agricultural education in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education eligible schools, create a network of regionally based "Farm to School Ambassadors", and develop a wholesale local food directory and online map to increase local procurement across the State. Grant activities will reach students and staff in K-12 schools, School Food Service Directors in Child Nutrition Programs, local food producers, and Farm to School Ambassadors. Key partners include Montana State University Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program Education, Montana Farmers Union, and the Alternate Energy Resources Organization/Abundant Montana.

Nebraska

Bridging Impact – \$49,731

Raymond, NE

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Bridging Impact, in partnership with Capriolo Farm, LLC and the Malone Center, will develop an action plan to implement a farm to school project focusing on a food secure future with youth-led, sustainable vertical farming that addresses food insecurity and related health and nutritional needs for students and families served by the Malone Center while providing nutrition and agricultural education to the next generation of leaders and farmers.

Health Partners Initiative – \$100,000

Lincoln, NE

Grant Type: Implementation

Health Partners Initiative dba Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln's Farm to Early Childhood Education project will increase access to local foods, increase sourcing from local and regional producers, and increase access to agriculture education. This proposal will reach early childhood education sites in Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska, prioritizing sites in lower income, higher nutrition insecure census tracts. Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln will bring together a broad network of local food advocates to integrate sustainability of farm to early childhood education into local food system work.

Lincoln Public Schools – \$100,000

Lincoln, NE

Grant Type: Implementation

The Nurturing Northeast Lincoln project will develop and expand school gardens and Family and Consumer Science courses in three high poverty middle schools in northeast Lincoln as the foundation for introducing agriculture education and related careers, as well as increasing access to locally grown foods. Students will develop and manage their own gardens; harvest food for use in Family and Consumer Science classes and after school clubs, and in an annual local food showcase event; and engage with local food producers and growers. These middle school students will be mentored by high school students in the Food, Energy, Water, and Societal Systems focus program at nearby Lincoln Northeast High School, who will visit the middle school garden clubs and host them at their own, larger garden. The overall impact of the project will be to improve access to local foods in the participating eligible Child Nutrition Program sites through the use of school garden produce.

Nevada

Community Through Colors – \$49,999

Reno, NV

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

This project supports action planning efforts for future agricultural education curriculum, edible gardens, and local food procurement for schools in Vieques, Puerto Rico. Community Through Colors will work with school representatives and community outreach team members to develop hands-on education field trips to local farms, and classroom visits by farmers, and culinary lessons by local chefs. Funding will help provide Vieques children with an agricultural curriculum and farm to school approach that aligns with their local climate, food culture, and is represented in multiple languages. The Community Through Colors team will utilize the USDA's new Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Planning Guide and USDA's Farm to School Planning Toolkit to help support planning activities.

Garden Farms Foundation – \$41,803

North Las Vegas, NV

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Garden Farms Foundation, in collaboration with Garden Farms of Nevada and three Clark County School District (CCSD) schools, are requesting Turnkey Edible Garden Grant funding for the Edible Gardens in Henderson Schools project. This project aims at building outdoor edible gardens at three schools, and implementing comprehensive agriculture educational programming for two outdoor gardens. The schools were selected based on their proximity to Opportunity Zones in Henderson as well as their need for increased access to healthy, local food. The food insecurity rate in Clark County, Nevada is 12 percent. In Henderson, 8.1 percent of people reside below the federal poverty level, and 29.1 percent of residents are obese. The Garden Farms Foundation has a goal of implementing agricultural education and increasing community access to healthy local foods.

New Hampshire

Belknap County Conservation District – \$48,569

Laconia, NH

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The Belknap County Conservation District will hire a Lakes Region Farm to School Coordinator to support development of four Farm to School Action Plans in New Hampshire's Lakes Region with a two-tier approach: 1) three school district Farm to School Action Plans to better connect rural schools to local farms, address child food insecurity and serve as an example to other Districts. The Gilford, Laconia, and Winnisquam School Districts volunteered to serve as leaders in this effort; and 2) a Lakes Region Farm to School Network Action Plan focused on information sharing region-wide and support to development of the three school district Action Plans. The Belknap County Conservation District will lead this project working with the Lakes Region Farm to School Network and the three school districts. All these school districts have Child Nutrition Programs.

The Cornucopia Project – \$47,546

Peterborough, NH

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Cornucopia Project's High School Food Systems Journey project will establish a four-year agriculture/nutrition curriculum that is accessible for all high school students in the Northeast. This project refines Cornucopia Project's student farmer program to pair with statewide initiatives in science and agricultural vocational training. Peer-reviewed course materials will be distributed in print and online formats. Upon project completion, high school students will have access to a credit-bearing, hands-on nutrition education experience and high schools will be able to offer programs that can be conducted Extended Learning Opportunities.

New Jersey

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. – \$100,000

Mahwah, NJ

Grant Type: Implementation

The Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. will partner with the Mahwah School District to provide agricultural education and increase local sourcing to the district's cafeterias. They will work with the Mahwah School District to bring the 3rd and 4th-grade classes from the George Washington, Betsy Ross, and Lenape Meadows Elementary Schools, out to the farm for a rotation-based farm learning trip, revitalize and plant out all five of the district's school gardens, with the help of students and staff. They will also run an eight-student summer high school farm-based internship, and work with the district's food service provider, the Pomptonian, to bring in more local products for school meals. These efforts will be aided and support by the Northeastern Organic Farming Association of New Jersey and National Center for Appropriate Technology.

New Mexico

Reunity Resources – \$50,000

Santa Fe, NM

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Reunity Resources will expand their program to align with school Science Technology Engineering Mathematics curriculum across all grade levels of the Santa Fe Public School District. This project has partnerships with the New Mexico Public Education Department Student Success and Wellness Division, Santa Fe Public Schools and specific area teachers, and Communities in Schools. The pilot year will reach 10 classrooms across all grade levels from early childhood through high school, while the second year will serve 20 classrooms across the district. The newly developed curriculum and a complementary in-classroom media component will be made available through the website for replication and iteration throughout the State of New Mexico.

New York

Fonda-Fultonville Central School District – \$78,294

Fonda, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, a rural district in upstate New York, proposes to expand its agricultural education program from the high school level to encompass all grade levels from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Agricultural education will be incorporated into the elementary and middle school curriculum, with the goal of instilling a lifelong appreciation of farming, promoting healthy eating, and fostering a deeper connection between students and the farming landscape that surrounds them. Grant activities include teaching students about gardening and composting and procuring local foods for taste tests. Key partners include Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dygert Farms, and United Ag and Turf.

Greater Johnstown School District – \$99,985

Johnstown, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

The Greater Johnstown School District project seeks to increase locally sourced and minimally processed foods served to students in school meals and to expand agricultural education across the district. In addition to providing nutritious, farm-fresh food that supports students' health and well-being, the project also aims to foster awareness and appreciation in the district for the community's local agricultural industry. Through taste tests, field trips, classroom visits from farmers, student-led initiatives, professional development for educators, family events and engaging curriculum and informational materials, students will learn about the benefits of healthy, local foods, participate in farming activities, and strengthen ties with their local agricultural community.

Hamburg Central School District – \$41,445

Hamburg, NY

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Hamburg Central School District (HCSD) will work with program partners to initiate new agricultural education programming that will complement the existing farm to school program. HCSD's primary project partners are Seeds of Living Education, a community-based non-profit, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County. Additionally, HCSD will partner with local agricultural producers, including Burdick Blueberries and Draudt's Farm Market and Greenhouse. The requested funding will be used to plan, implement, and evaluate the integration of farm to school topics into the HCSD school sites' curriculum.

Hudson City School District – \$100,000

Hudson, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

The Hudson City School District, in coordination with the Hudson Farm to School Advisory Committee intends to further expand student knowledge and extend opportunities for all students to access locally sourced foods through the construction of a greenhouse on the district campus. This

greenhouse will increase curriculum opportunities for preK-12 students throughout the school year, will host career awareness, nutrition, and urban agriculture workshops for the community, and will support the cultivation of produce which can be used for the district's meal program, for a culinary program, and a table at the local farmer's market which will help break down barriers in the community and provide an opportunity for students to practice business skills.

Olean City School District – \$99,500

Olean, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

The District will implement a new curriculum that will be embedded beginning in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and to include tower gardens, a greenhouse, and field trips to different types of farms. Also, a garden club, chef contest, agricultural science fair, and participation in the local farmers market will be implemented. The cafeteria will increase their purchasing to 30 percent locally grown food which will help to expand the menus. New fresh foods will be added that are locally grown fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meats. Student involvement and input is to be gathered through monthly taste tests. The District will begin a composting program at all four cafeterias to help control waste.

Queens Botanical Garden Society Inc. – \$99,858

Flushing, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

The proposed project "Growing Community: Training Urban Farmers of Tomorrow" will be a collaboration between the non-profit organization Queens Botanical Garden and The Renaissance Charter School, to expand local sourcing and improve agricultural education to the students. A Sustainable Agricultural Internship for select high school students over a two year-period will involve knowledge-building of compost and farm activities as well as food justice topics. Queens Botanical Garden will facilitate various workshops for interns as well as the entire student body throughout the two-year program, including field trips to the Queens Botanical Garden Farm for direct farm exposure. This program will also expand the infrastructural capacity of the school's rooftop garden by installing a compost system and raised farm beds facilitated by Queens Botanical Garden project leaders.

Salamanca City Central School District – \$50,000

Salamanca, NY

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Salamanca City Central School District will establish a garden in which indigenous/medicinal plantings and produce will be planted. The garden will be established to not only benefit the Food Services Program by providing fresh fruits and vegetables but will also serve as a learning space for the district students. Curriculum will be utilized within the classroom and at the garden that will enable the students to learn how growth habits and biology of certain plants can complement each other to form a symbiotic or mutually beneficial relationship, as well as how to plant and care for the various items.

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES – \$99,814

Canton, NY

Grant Type: Implementation

St. Lawrence-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services will combine local sourcing and agricultural education to grow long-term resiliency in its existing Farm to School Initiative and to increase agricultural awareness in the students and communities it serves. Key partners include Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County, St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency, and Big Spoon Kitchen.

The Cobleskill Campus Child Care Center Inc. – \$43,524

Cobleskill, NY

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The Cobleskill Campus Childcare Center will lead a research and planning process that will introduce and sustain a farm to early education initiative at the Center to serve children ages 0-5. In partnership with Bassett Research Institute, the Center will convene a Farm to School Advisory Committee, composed of teachers, food service staff, Cornell Cooperative Extension, County Ag Development, the SUNY Cobleskill Farm, local farmers, and parents to establish an action plan based on research and analysis of existing infrastructure, assets, capacity, and partnerships. The Advisory Committee will develop a plan to identify local food procurement opportunities and challenges and the feasibility of incorporating garden education and local procurement into the early education curriculum. The Cobleskill Campus Childcare Center will serve as a model for other Center-based SUNY campus childcare centers across New York.

North Carolina

Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau – \$50,000

Cashiers, NC

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Boys & Girls Club Of The Columbia Basin's (BGCP) mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. BGCP provides out of school care and summer programming for K-12 youth in Cashiers, North Carolina. BGCP will utilize funding for an edible garden which will be used to provide healthy snacks to youth and teens by turning BGCP outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning edible gardens that connect kids with healthy fresh food, spark their curiosity, and support their goal of fun with purpose through experiential learning. Key partners include Jackson County Nutrition Director, North Carolina Agricultural Extension, Laurel Garden Club, along with community volunteers.

Historic Johnson Farm Foundation Inc. – \$50,000

Hendersonville, NC

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The RootEd in Food and Farm project will pilot a scalable model of agricultural education that connects secondary students with their local food systems through interdisciplinary, project-based

learning. Constructive Learning Design will provide year-long training and coaching for eighth grade teachers in Henderson County Public Schools to participate in teacher professional and curriculum development based at a farm museum owned by the school district, Historic Johnston Farm. Participating teachers will design, test, and refine project-based learning modules that allow them to teach their classroom curricula in hands-on, place-based ways at the farm. The project will integrate farm to school in curricula across the school district by, literally, rooting student learning on the farm.

North Dakota

North Dakota Department of Agriculture – \$500,000

Bismarck, ND

Grant Type: State Agency

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture will focus on expanding the Farm to School program statewide through a variety of projects such as investing in their schools and producers to expand the program through equipment subgrants to build the capacity of farm to school. Furthermore, agricultural classroom education, school gardens, and tower gardens will be a key focus for students learning about farm to school. School nutrition staff will also receive further education and outreach on the Farm to School program, creating additional buy in. Through these efforts, they hope to expand and grow the Farm to School program out of the infancy stage in their State.

Ohio

Bradford Board of Education – \$100,000

Bradford, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

The project is a greenhouse and all associated educational activities therein. This will provide the structure of the greenhouse and associated expenses. Bradford Board of Education has match partners to provide the supplies, foundation, and connections for the project. This greenhouse will complement the existing agricultural education program at Bradford Middle/High School. Students will have the ability, support and resources to complete a workplace experience to gain knowledge in the field of agriculture.

Columbus City Schools – \$99,584

Columbus, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

The goal of the Advanced Hydroponics in the Classrooms of Columbus City Schools project is to educate and engage students and teachers in agriculture through academic calendar-based hydroponics using multiple systems, some prototypes, to grow non-traditional crops such as summer fruits and vegetables to engage urban youth in urban schools. This project will improve access to and knowledge of fresh food, including culturally appropriate produce, in classrooms across the Columbus City Schools district, the largest in Ohio. This project is a collaboration of Columbus City Schools, CropKing, and Franklin County OSU Extension.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health – \$100,000

Parma, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health will build on 15 years of foundational work in farm to school to pilot a youth ambassador program. Feed Their Future (FOF): Empowering Youth Leaders to Champion Local Foods will engage with youth leaders in urban and rural districts to 1) provide input to shape the design and functionality of the FOF ambassador program; 2) aid in the identification and recruitment of local farms and producers to bring local foods in to their cafeterias; and 3) assist in the adaptation of FOF assets, including Harvest of the Month kits, taste test events, and recipe development. The opportunity for student voice to shape schools' access to local foods allows for not only increased engagement by schools, but also empowers youth to develop leadership skills and act as leaders among their peers.

Jardin 4 Life Inc. – \$99,999

Cleveland, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

Jardin 4 Life, Rev Love, and Food Access Raises Everyone (FARE) has partnered to close the gap in agricultural education, policy change, workforce development, and local produce procurement to Cultivate Cleveland's Next Generation. They aim to create a pathway for their young people to thrive in the agricultural sector. Jardin 4 Life has launched a course of study in Cleveland Municipal School District to bring back the agricultural life skills that once thrived in the district. Elements of Internal Movement (DBA RevLove Farm) is guiding students to realize their very own agricultural space from seed to plate while designing an individualized business, career, and policy change plan. FARE is bridging the gap between their youth, farmers, culinary artists, and policy makers. Their youth will not only grow fresh food to eat on site but receive fresh produce from local farmers. Through various food system career mentors, they will educate, train and support Cleveland's Next Generation

New Lexington City Schools – \$99,809

New Lexington, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

Through the New Lexington Grows project, the New Lexington City School District will implement a comprehensive food science program with students in grades 6-8, attending the New Lexington Middle School. This program will connect students with the sources of their food through hands-on learning experiences in a 96' by 20' greenhouse on campus. The students will grow produce using various hydroponic methods and traditional soil-based gardening, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable food systems, and promoting healthier eating habits.

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce – \$131,708

Columbus, OH

Grant Type: State Agency

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will partner with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to create a student focused Food Safety for Gardens training program equipping students

and educators with the knowledge and resources to plant, grow, harvest, prepare, and consume produce grown in edible, educational gardens. The program will include a Garden Safety Toolkit with corresponding picture book, a Farm to School (K-5th grade) Garden Safety Toolkit, animated short videos, and a series of standard operating procedures on bringing produce from the school garden to the cafeteria and classroom for consumption. The toolkits will include lesson plans and resources on six topic areas: 1) Introduction to Produce Safety, 2) Student Health and Hygiene, 3) Soil, 4) Wildlife, 5) Water, and 6) Harvest Handling and Sanitation. "Train the Trainer" events will be held to prepare garden educators on the use of the program in their schools.

Rural Action, Inc. – \$457,731

The Plains, OH

Grant Type: Implementation

This project seeks to expand access to and knowledge of healthy, local food in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia's K-12 schools through a multi-pronged approach of local food procurement, professional development and training, multi-State peer to peer learning, agricultural education, and workforce development. Partners will build upon two decades of collaboration to put local food on cafeteria trays, students' hands into school garden beds, and agricultural education into the classroom. This project will be led by Rural Action, a community development non-profit serving the Appalachian counties of Ohio, and will involve close partnerships with Coalfield Development, which serves West Virginia, as well as Community Food Initiatives and the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, based in southeast Ohio.

Oklahoma

Dove Schools, Inc. – \$45,730

Oklahoma City, OK

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Dove Science Academy Tulsa is excited to install hydroponic grow towers in 20 elementary and middle school classrooms. Students will take plants from seed to salad bowl, growing edible greens in their classrooms to be incorporated into lunch offerings. The process will give students practical experience in agriculture, as well as providing hands-on learning for key concepts in botany and nutrition science. The project will serve their high-poverty, highly-diverse urban school, and will help address the lack of fresh vegetables in the diets of their students.

Mayes County HOPE Coalition – \$40,097

Pryor, OK

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Mayes County HOPE Coalition will establish a Turnkey Agricultural Education curriculum by hiring a director for the Digging in the Dirt project to develop the curriculum based on Oklahoma Farm to School curriculum. The funds will be used for the position, travel, supplies, and veggie bucks for the students to utilize at the farmer's market. The Digging in the Dirt agriculture education project will focus on Pryor Public Schools students in the after-school program. The project will provide the

opportunity to learn how to grow vegetables, to connect with food from local producers, and an introduction into the importance and impact of agriculture, including farmers markets. This project will include partnerships with Pryor Public Schools, the local Optimist Club, and the Oklahoma State University Extension office.

Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma – \$193,015

Miami, OK

Grant Type: Implementation

Peoria Progress: Rockdale will allow for the existing kitchen of a recently purchased elementary school to be fitted and prepared to store and prepare fresh and local meat, dairy, and produce that the Tribe will prepare for the daycare students they serve. It will also provide funds for each classroom to create and build classroom gardens that will be used to teach gardening skills through actual production, preparation, and consumption of produce.

The Chickasaw Nation – \$50,000

Ada, OK

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Chickasaw Nation plans to transition their in-person curriculum to a virtual curriculum. The virtual curriculum development will include a style guide, logo, characters, printed lessons, and digital lessons, along with classroom aids and collaterals. The new curriculum will pair virtual lessons with taste tests of local produce. Once the virtual curriculum is developed, the program will be able to expand the reach of its farm to school efforts to a wide variety of school districts located across the Child Nutrition treaty territory. Program partners include local farmers, one public preschool, and four Child Nutrition Head Start centers.

Oregon

Bethel School District #52 – \$49,964

Eugene, OR

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Bethel Farm to Market Agricultural Education Grant will expand the farm by one acre, dedicated to crop production for the Kalapuya High School's Agriculture, Culinary, & Entrepreneurial Food Production program. New coursework and experiential curriculum will be developed for 'at-risk' high school students to create value-added products produce grown by students on the Bethel Farm. This cross-cultural curriculum will be developed in partnership with Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad, aligned with Oregon Department of Education standards and Next Generation Science Standards, and will be implemented by the Bethel Farm to Market Educator and Plaza staff.

Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis – \$39,450

Corvallis, OR

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis will deliver fun, enriching afterschool programming to help youth improve awareness and access to nutritious, locally sourced foods. Their 5th & 6th Grade Edible Garden Club will engage quarterly cohorts of 15 youth each for one hour a day, once a week. Participants will discover a love of edible gardening and develop life-long habits around healthy eating and conscious food sourcing.

Corvallis Environmental Center – \$100,000

Corvallis, OR

Grant Type: Implementation

Growing Healthy Communities: Connecting Students to their Food System in Benton and Linn Counties will build food system connections among stakeholders in both counties, expand Farm to School programming into rural areas of Linn County at three new elementary schools, and add classes for low income and Spanish speaking students at Corvallis and Albany schools. Working with school districts and food system stakeholders, Corvallis Environmental Center is excited to encourage more children and families in urban and rural schools to make healthy food choices, utilize outdoor learning spaces like school gardens and local farms, and increase connections with regional farms and producers. Their vision is a comprehensive, culturally diverse, and multifaceted food system for the mid-Willamette region of Oregon that integrates nutritious food and agriculture experiences into the fabric of the schools and the lives of students and their communities.

Friends of Zenger Farm – \$97,140

Portland, OR

Grant Type: Implementation

Friends of Zenger Farm and David Douglas School District (DDSD) will collaborate to expand their existing partnership to further incorporate food justice, food sovereignty, and youth empowerment into their shared farm to school programming. Core activities include the delivery of year-round onsite food systems education, including 12 hours of farm-based programming for over 1,200 students in the neighborhood, family events centered around climate resilience, monthly weeknight programming for local families, and information sessions with DDSD Nutrition Services. Through Farm School and family programming, Zenger Farm engages 2,500 local youth and families in onsite activities, from land stewardship to food preservation, to build the skills necessary for a thriving and vibrant local food system. Farm School programming creates early pathways for 3,000 youth to enter into food justice and food sovereignty work and connect to natural resources and green spaces within their neighborhood.

Grow Portland – \$99,000

Portland, OR

Grant Type: Implementation

Grow Portland will expand beyond elementary Garden School programs to fill a district-identified gap in 6th-8th garden programming and create a K-8 pipeline of food gardening education for primarily low-income, diverse students. In addition to continuing integrated science-based, experiential garden programming at 13 Portland elementary schools, this project will focus on sustaining three of those K-5 schools that reflect: 1,200 students, 61 percent students of color, 66 percent FRLR, 30 percent English Language Learners, and 20 percent with disabilities which feed directly into two middle schools. These schools reflect: 1,000 students; 71 percent FRLR, 67 percent students of color, 37 percent English Language Learners, and 19 percent students with disabilities. They will collaborate with schools to build curriculum and program parameters. Students will expand their science learning and food knowledge while developing leadership and gardening skills as they grow and distribute food within their school community.

Luckiamute Valley Charter School – \$49,781

Dallas, OR

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

This rural Oregon school will hire a part-time gardening co-teacher to provide weekly gardening education to over 200 students. The classes will teach students to create gardens, plant, maintain, harvest, and process locally grown produce for taste testing and simple meal preparation. Locally procured food using Child Nutrition Program Procurement and USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grants will be sourced. USDA and State nutrition curriculum will be integrated into nutrition education classes and as a resource of Federally approved menus that will be piloted with students alongside the current catered contract to build capacity for onsite home cooked lunches. Partnerships with at least two new local farmers and a nutrition coach will help procure local food to incorporate into monthly pilot scratch cooking.

Pennsylvania

ASPIRA Inc. of Pennsylvania – \$97,503

Philadelphia, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

ASPIRA Inc. of Pennsylvania will implement project Farm to Table Initiative. This initiative includes an outdoor classroom inclusive of raised garden beds and a chicken coop in order to secure local, fresh produce for the community. The harvests generated will supply the school cafeterias and local shelters, as well as provide the community with garden boxes to improve access to local, fresh produce. Additionally, education will be offered to students within the curriculum focused on gardening and nutrition. Cooking classes will be offered to community members to educate on the benefits of locally sourced produce and how to prepare this produce. The garden will be maintained by the school and surrounding community.

Chester County Economic Development Foundation – \$49,458

Exton, PA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

This project focuses on the organization of a farm to school action planning team, coordinated by AgConnect—the agricultural extension of the Chester County Economic Development Council—to support the development of programs within Collegium Charter School. They will build upon the existing gardens and greenhouses that the school has invested in, to support their cultivation, culminating in the creation of a school operated farmers market program, where students will be able to showcase the food their gardens have produced, providing program sustainability. There is currently no formal agriculture education within the school, so by their fostering the development of curriculum, gardens can be tended as part of their formal education experience, rather than at a club level. Incorporating tours to local produce farm, Down to Earth Harvest, agriculture can be introduced in grade levels K-12.

Hazleton Area School District – \$99,882

Hazle Township, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

The "Growings" initiative, led by Hazleton Area School District, integrates sustainable controlled environment agriculture into the Hazleton Area Career Center. Providing hyper-local, nutrient dense produce and proteins to the cafeteria, the project aligns with the USDA's objectives for local food security and education. Addressing a 37 percent child poverty rate and a 3-5 percent higher obesity rate than the State average, the project enhances overall health outcomes and student learning with aquaculture systems, year-round produce, and a State-aligned curriculum. In collaboration with industry leaders like INTAG Aquaponics, Little Leaf Farms, and Partners in Education, the initiative fosters healthy eating habits through community integration. The district's history of successful farm to school initiatives demonstrates the capacity to implement and sustain the initiative.

Holy Family Institute – \$100,000

Pittsburgh, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

Holy Family Institute will plant edible gardens and utilize a controlled environment agriculture container farm on its campus to provide hands-on agricultural education programming to more than 800 children and youth each year. In partnership with GetBlok Farms, a local hydroponic urban farm cooperative, students and residents of Holy Family Institute's programs will have the opportunity to grow and distribute fresh produce from the container farm and edible gardens on the organization's campus. This produce will be integrated into school breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus, which serve a student population with a more than 80 percent eligible for free- or reduced- price meals. Both garden environments will serve as living laboratories for a comprehensive agriculture education program provided to students at Nazareth Prep High School, Holy Family Specialized Learning School, and Journey of Hope, a shelter program for migrant youth.

Neighborhood North: Museum of Play – \$46,075

Beaver Falls, PA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The 'Grow Great Program' by Neighborhood North Museum will be revolutionizing education in Big Beaver Falls School District with this project that will be focused on integrating Vertical Aquaculture and Hydroponic Systems for hands-on learning. The action plan is to include team formation, curriculum planning/implementation, and community engagement. With five sub-awardees benefiting from the systems, the initiative extends its reach beyond the museum and Big Beaver Falls School District, fostering transparency and stakeholder engagement for dynamic program and community enhancement.

Pennsylvania Department of Education – \$202,044

Harrisburg, PA

Grant Type: State Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education plans for a multi-component project to address various stages of readiness among Child Nutrition Program operators to initiate and/or expand local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. The objective of this statewide project is to improve access to local foods in eligible Child Nutrition Program sites through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts.

Public Health Management Corporation – \$100,000

Philadelphia, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

Public Health Management Corporation, under its Division of Health Promotion Services, proposes the Roots to Readiness Project to address inequities in and improve access to therapeutic garden activities, local foods, and healthy nutrition for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 5 to 21 in the Greater Philadelphia region. A partnership among Public Health Management Corporation and 3 Public Health Management Corporation subsidiaries, Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., Fairwold Academy, and Mill Creek School, Roots to Readiness sustains and expands previous farm to school programming at Fairwold Academy that established an edible teaching garden with quarterly tasting events, nutrition education, and culinary demonstrations, using produce grown in the school garden. Roots to Readiness will sustain and expand Fairwold Academy's garden activities, increase the frequency and variety of educational programs, and promote student transitions to independent living through meal planning, cooking techniques and mapping of local food sources.

The Edible Classroom – \$49,995

Washington Boro, PA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Edible Classroom in partnership with four schools in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, are working together to bring Pennsylvania's newly adopted Science Technology Engineering Environmental Literacy & Sustainability curriculum standards to life in their existing school gardens and develop

pathways to bring student-grown food into the cafeteria. Over 1,400 students will be given the opportunity to apply Environmental Literacy & Sustainability with hands-on education growing real food. Tending their plants, harvesting, and learning culinary skills out in the garden during the school day will give every student a real seed to table experience. With partner agricultural producer Homefields Care Farm, all students will learn from a local farmer and together they will lay the foundation for school to work partnerships in the agricultural industry.

The Food Trust – \$97,000

Philadelphia, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Food Trust aims to enhance local food availability in underserved Pennsylvania communities through farm to school initiatives, aligning with the Pennsylvania Farm to School Network's strategic plan. The project has statewide reach but focuses on ten high-risk counties, implementing the following activities: 1) piloting a "Friends of the Farmer" program, 2) formalizing partnerships between school food authorities and farmers, 3) establishing a farm to school/early childhood education practitioner recognition program, 4) supporting a peer-to-peer consulting cohort, and 5) creating a Pennsylvania Farm to School Network Dashboard of Impact Measures, utilizing new and existing data to track the success of farm to school/early childhood education efforts and guide long-term plans and goals. The comprehensive approach seeks to strengthen community connections to local food sources, addressing recognized needs in the State.

Titusville Area School District – \$99,360

Titusville, PA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Cultivating Connections initiative is propelling the Titusville Area School District into a new era of agricultural education and sustainability. This transformative project centers on expanding Controlled Environment Agriculture offerings, aquaculture and hydroponics, in both the high school and middle school. The high school will emphasize community food production and cultivation, while the middle school's focus is geared towards experiential enrichment. Anticipated outcomes include incorporating unprocessed, locally sourced meal components into cafeteria programs, enhancing infrastructure for local ingredients, and creating experiential learning opportunities, such as immersive classroom gardens and student run farmers markets.

Rhode Island

Harmony Hill School – \$50,000

Chepachet, RI

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Harmony Hill School (HHS), a direct beneficiary of Child Nutrition Programs and a therapeutic residential and day treatment program in rural Rhode Island for boys ages 8-18 years with a clinical diagnosis, will revitalize a once-thriving horticultural program. Led by staff with intentional student activity, and in partnership with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Master Gardener

Program and North Providence School District (Child Nutrition Program provider), funds will be used to refurbish the greenhouse and four large garden beds to support year-round growing and harvesting on the school's 100-acre property. The program will support HHS staff, students, and families, and the surrounding community.

South Carolina

RobinHood Group – \$99,999

Union, SC

Grant Type: Implementation

The RobinHood Group will create a transformative learning environment at the Achievement Academy in Union County South Carolina school district and at the Friendship Lab School for Dyslexia, Maumelle, Arkansas through comprehensive farm to school programming including local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. The "Growing Good Food That is Kid Friendly" program will install school gardens, improve students' access to local foods and promote healthy eating habits. Farmers Market Flavors will also serve as the model for agricultural entrepreneurship development.

The Smart Box – \$49,926

Fairfax, SC

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

The Smart Box Nonprofit Organization has partnered with the Allendale County School District to include Agricultural Education Activities in the school's curriculum. The purpose of this collaboration is to increase student's access to healthy food, nutrition-based learning activities, and exposure to farm activities among students grades K-12. This project will be achieved by creating a Community Curriculum Team, "The Allendale Agricultural Education Collaboration", consisting of teachers, local agency representatives, church leaders, local farmers, students, and Allendale County Residents will ensure community input of how to incorporate farm visits, farmer presentations, taste tests, and launch a fruit and vegetable promotion campaign.

South Dakota

Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud – \$49,906

Mission, SD

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

The Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud project includes creating a garden, installing season extension infrastructure, and expanding refrigeration and cold storage with a goal of supplying food 12 months out of the year. This funding will impact the local Boys and Girls Club members, primarily children between the ages of 5-12 by using the produce in reimbursable meals (CACFP/SFSP). Excess crops will be distributed to those in need within the Rosebud community. Crops will include fresh immediate consumables as well as storage crops during the winter months. A key partner is Sicangu Co--a resource for local growing and expertise in regenerative agriculture on the Rosebud Reservation.

Rapid City Area Schools – \$37,500

Rapid City, SD

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Rapid City School District presents Nourishing Futures, seeks to establish a robust connection between local farms, educational institutions, and the broader community. This initiative is made possible through strategic partnerships with Black Hills Area Community Foundation, Black Hills Farmers Market, Western Dakota Technical College, Community Centered Consulting, and Feeding South Dakota. The grant will empower community groups, including local farmers and Indigenous organizations, by providing economic opportunities and preserving cultural heritage. Collaborative educational initiatives will engage students in hands-on learning, creating a sustainable connection between food, health, and community.

Tennessee

Brooklyn Heights Community Garden – \$98,632

Nashville, TN

Grant Type: Implementation

Brooklyn Heights Community Garden and Urban Farm will partner with Cosecha Community Development to provide locally sourced produce and agriculture education at two middle school sites located in predominantly Black and Latino communities in Nashville, Tennessee.

County of Bedford Superintendent of Schools – \$50,000

Shelbyville, TN

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Bedford County Schools' Turnkey Edible Garden Project: Fresh for ALL, establishes hydroponic vegetable production systems and raised bed vegetable production units at Shelbyville Central High School to bring edible garden education to students in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Students will learn how to successfully establish edible gardens at home and will reap the benefits of fresh food in their own backyards, enhancing quality of life and community for ALL.

Healthy Flavors, Inc. – \$497,759

Eagleville, TN

Grant Type: Implementation

Healthy Flavors will form a community of organizations diversely qualified to survey broadly, then specifically select three school districts (up to 20 cafeterias/kitchens) for a farm to school program driving local procurement through the culinary arts. Trained Chef Ambassadors will implement recipe focused, cafeteria scalable, and classroom implementable activities that both teach kids about recipe ingredients and ingredient origins and train food service staff about efficiency and effectiveness in preparing those recipes. Partners include Brightwater, A Center for the Study of Food, Wellness in the Schools, Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Arkansas Farm to School), and National Farm to School Network.

Lake County School District – \$50,000

Tiptonville, TN

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Lake County, Tennessee is a rural county in Northwest Tennessee with a rich agricultural history, with hunting and tourism opportunities around Reelfoot Lake. This project will create a unified, county-wide farm to school vision and plan for implementation. The proposed planning phase and team (stakeholders from each school, school nutrition, coordinated school health, career and technical education, education directors, administrators, local Extension agents, Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, and local farmers) will facilitate the planning process. Their aim is to improve access and use of local foods in the school, development of hospitality and tourism culinary career pathways, enhancement of farm to school educational opportunities, and an overall contribution to the health and wellness of their student body and surrounding communities that serves as a model for others in their region.

Texas

Dallas County Texas – \$50,000

Dallas, TX

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

With this funding, Dallas County Health And Human Services (DCHHS) will partner with NTxGN and Texas Agrilife to identify and implement edible garden programs in five DISD Schools. With the schools proposed for this project, this edible garden project would impact 2,427 students, based on 2023 enrollment. In addition to identifying and implementing projects, DCHHS and its partners will also offer education and technical assistance to these schools.

Farmersville Independent School District – \$99,000

Farmersville, TX

Grant Type: Implementation

The Farmers Feeding Farmers initiative seeks to restore the rich agricultural history in Farmersville, Texas to create the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Once known as the “Onion Capital of Texas,” Farmersville earned its name from the farming families that built this rural town, which is now designated as a high-poverty area with food desert conditions. In alignment with the community's namesake and mascot the “Farmersville Farmers,” this grant will revive the spirit for which Farmersville is named, improve the health and well-being of their students, connect students to their food sources, and increase the number of next generation food producers by: 1) serving healthy, scratch-made food in the cafeterias, 2) increasing the offering of local-sourced and culturally-inspired foods, 3) expanding and enriching the agricultural education programs, 4) teaching nutrition and healthy lifestyle habits, 5) improving the environment, and 6) creating a teaching and production farm.

Gardopia Gardens – \$46,963

San Antonio, TX

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

Gardopia Gardens will convene and coordinate with seven school districts to work in unison to develop and integrate a comprehensive 15-week Urban Agricultural Curriculum aligned the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Standards and UN Sustainable Development Goals. Emphasizing a hands-on approach, the curriculum will seek to enrich students with an understanding of sustainable agriculture, healthy eating habits, and the environmental impacts of food production to prepare students for future careers in agriculture while equipping them with relevant skills and knowledge pertinent to the industry. This curriculum includes an online workbook and 60 learning videos for student and teacher learning engagements.

Houston Independent School District – \$67,850

Houston, TX

Grant Type: Implementation

This project will expand the agriculture and nutrition education efforts of Houston Independent School District-Nutrition Services Get Growing Houston program. This will be accomplished by strengthening and expanding the existing Get Growing Houston program for 100 school garden and nutrition educators; enhancing agriculture and nutrition education experiences for 3rd – 12th grade students at the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm; increasing access to fresh produce through the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center and school gardens; supporting Child Nutrition Programs through garden-to-cafeteria programs such as food tastings healthy eating cooking demonstrations; and engaging with 10 Title I Parent Teacher Organizations to support family gardening. The project is designed to impact 2,500 students and 100 parents over the two year grant period. Key partners will include the USDA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Farm Bureau, and Whole Kids Foundation.

Partners for Education, Agriculture, and Sustainability – \$99,990

Austin, TX

Grant Type: Implementation

The “Connecting School Gardens to Kitchen Classrooms” project will increase access to local farm and school garden produce and deepen agricultural content in Edible Education programming at five elementary schools in Austin, Texas. By revising kitchen program lessons to include recipes with local produce and by planting, growing, and harvesting produce on the Partner For Education, Agriculture, And Sustainability farm and in campus gardens for those recipes, students will help grow, learn to prepare and eat fresh local produce within the school day throughout the academic year. The alignment of garden lessons with kitchen lessons will increase agricultural knowledge and involve students in the full soil-to-table cycle. Aligned content of garden and kitchen learning will be reinforced by the design and distribution of student summer activity books containing recipes, growing tips, and activities.

Utah

Youth Garden Project – \$79,464

Moab, UT

Grant Type: Implementation

The Youth Garden Project will facilitate semi-annual 90-minute field trips for over 700 Grand County School District pre-kindergarten and elementary school students over a two-year period. The field trip instructors will teach Utah Core Standards for each grade level, using Youth Garden Project's 1.5-acre garden and orchard as a hands-on learning lab. Students will participate in taste tests, edible gardening activities, and lessons that help students connect what they are learning in their classroom to their local food community. Food grown at the Youth Garden Project site will be sold to Grand County School District's Child Nutrition Program for use in school lunches. Key partners of this project include Grand County School District's Child Nutrition Program, and faculty at Helen M. Knight Elementary School, also a part of the district.

Vermont

Vermont Farm and Forest School, Inc. – \$96,142

Roxbury, VT

Grant Type: Implementation

The Climate Resilience & Food Systems: Growing Agents of Change project will increase access to local foods in Vermont public schools through comprehensive agricultural education provided by classroom teachers, farmers and relationship building between schools and local farms to increase avenues for local food purchasing for school cafeterias and to provide stable markets for farmers. The project objectives are: 1) develop standards-aligned, interdisciplinary curriculum for grades 3-5 complete with materials kits for educators and farmers; 2) provide training, coaching, and support for teachers and farmers to implement the curriculum; 3) build relationships between and provide training to schools and farmers to increase local food procurement for schools and establish sustainable markets for farms.

Virginia

Healthy Harvest Food Bank, Inc. – \$99,772

Warsaw, VA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Healthy Harvest Fresh Regional Farm to School Initiative will impact the knowledge, availability, and consumption of healthy foods within the Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula. Through combined efforts of Healthy Harvest Food Bank, Healthy Harvest Fresh, and school and community partners, a robust regional farm to school initiative will be created and launched. Healthy Harvest Fresh will serve the region by increasing the local supply of fresh healthy produce and leading a regional farm to school initiative to be implemented across six counties of the Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula with potential for impact beyond the locality. Through this program, Healthy

Harvest Fresh will serve as a source for fresh greens to be served in the school lunch program. This effort will be reinforced by an education initiative that combines innovative food production knowledge with nutrition for wellness, into an engaging cross-curricular experiential program.

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission – \$92,084

Culpeper, VA

Grant Type: Implementation

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Farm to School Gap Analysis and Pilot Program, led by the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission's project aims to use Carver Food Enterprise Center 's commercial kitchen for a monthly delivery of a local, healthy entree or side dish to Rappahannock County Public School Students. This initiative bridges the gap between local farmers and school cafeterias, facilitating access to fresh, nutritious food for students. The Carver Food Enterprise Center will offer a central kitchen procurement pilot.

United Charitable – \$218,182

Ashburn, VA

Grant Type: Implementation

ReTreeUS will partner with 20 schools throughout New England; KidsGardening and The Giving Grove will implement nationally replicable school orchard programs that will maximize fruit harvests, student learning opportunities and program sustainability. While creating greater access to local produce, (fruit grown on school grounds) in multiple States, this project will also develop a curated package of resources and lessons that will maximize agricultural education opportunities in school orchards.

VSDB Foundation – \$49,830

Staunton, VA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Foundation will partner with the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind to enhance the school's edible school garden. Cooperation Respect Opportunity Perseverance Skills Project (CROPS) increases student access to local foods, advances educational opportunities, and improves understanding of classroom concepts through agricultural innovation. Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind currently has 59 students from preschool – 12th grade (36 students are deaf/hard of hearing and 23 are blind/vision impaired).

Washington

Boys & Girls Club of the Columbia Basin – \$49,992

Moses Lake, WA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Ag Ed

In Moses Lake, Washington, where 100 percent of school district youth qualify for free meals and at the Club where 60 percent of youth are BIPOC, the Boys & Girls Club of the Columbia Basin proudly launches Farm to Fork Explorers. This two-year, turnkey agriculture education project, immerses youth

in the world of farming and food production. Through a unique blend of farm and commodity field trips, culturally-diverse cooking and preservation workshops, taste tests, interactive farm simulations, youth will connect with the journey of food from soil to plate. Emphasizing nutrient-rich, locally-sourced foods, the program also opens doors to diverse agricultural careers. Supported by over fifteen partnerships, the project offers real-world insights into farming and food production. Aligned with a new agriculture career explore project, Explorers will broaden horizons, instill lifelong healthy eating habits, and inspire the next generation of food system innovators.

City of Seattle – \$99,736

Seattle, WA

Grant Type: Implementation

This project, managed by City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability & Environment, will provide strategic support to increase Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Culinary Services staff capacity to use and purchase more fresh, local foods, especially from underrepresented farmers and producers, and increase student participation in school meals. The project will also support Nurturing Roots to increase student access to food justice and farm-to-table education, support the SPS Native American Education Program to provide teacher trainings on food sovereignty and native plants, and increase training and resources for school garden practitioners by supporting Tilth Alliance's coordination of the Seattle School Learning Garden Network.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – \$43,125

Nespelem, WA

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

Several schools from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation will partner with the Colville Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Department to develop an action plan to incorporate fresh fish and game meat from the new meat processing facility into the schools' Child Nutrition Programs. These schools include the Inchelium, Keller, and Nespelem School Districts and the Paschal Sherman Indian School. The action plan will also seek to create or expand upon existing farm to school educational initiatives/programs between the meat processing facility and the schools.

Federal Way School District #210 – \$95,737

Federal Way, WA

Grant Type: Implementation

Federal Way Public School's Garden to Cafeteria project will allow foods grown in school gardens by students to be served as part of the National School Lunch Program. The project team will expand agriculture education in the district which will further connect students with culturally relevant and standards-aligned lessons related to the growing, harvesting and eating of their locally grown garden produce. The development of this program will occur in partnership with King County Department of Health. A school garden to cafeteria playbook will be created and shared with other King County schools for their own use. District student and family input will be utilized to determine the foods grown. Schools in year one will be Wildwood Elementary, Olympic View K-8, and Lakota Middle School and Employment Transition Program. Schools added in year two will be Star Lake and Enterprise Elementary, Illahee Middle School, and Thomas Jefferson High School.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – \$136,078

Olympia, WA

Grant Type: State Agency

The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will develop 24 comprehensive “plug and play” Harvest of the Month toolkits with purchasing, promoting, and educating about local foods. OSPI will work with Child Nutrition Program sponsors, State agency partners, and statewide agriculture organizations to create toolkits that are accessible, relevant, and easy to use. A Child Nutrition Program sponsor assessment will determine specific Harvest of the Month featured foods and toolkit components, but possible toolkit components include cafeteria marketing and education materials, taste test materials and templates, social media and communications templates, family newsletters, and classroom connections. Chef-hosted cooking videos will provide culinary tips and recipe ideas for using Harvest of the Month featured foods.

Tilth Alliance – \$98,408

Seattle, WA

Grant Type: Implementation

Tilth Alliance’s “Growing Local Food Access and Education with Farmers, Students, and Teachers” project will increase Washington State producers’ readiness to participate with school buyers; provide K-12 students with hands-on education on an urban farm; increase access to locally grown produce for Seattle Public School students; and support school garden education through the School Learning Garden Network. The project will facilitate a Farm to School Producers Workshop Track for the Tilth Farm Conference and develop Farm Walks, reaching 460 farmers and institutional buyers to increase local food purchasing. Rainier Beach Farm Field trips will reach 825 K-12 students and their teachers, prioritizing Title 1 schools, for hands-on farm tasks to connect with where food comes from. To strengthen school garden education, the School Learning Garden Network, co-facilitated by Tilth Alliance, IslandWood will engage 350 teachers with quarterly workshops.

Washington, D.C.

DC Central Kitchen, Inc. – \$100,000

Washington, DC

Grant Type: Implementation

DC Central Kitchen (DCK) will convert 12 DC Public Schools (DCPS) from more traditional foodservices to a model using farm to school local sourcing practices and complimentary agricultural education. Each of the 12 schools participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) serving meals for all students at no cost, and have an average "at risk" population as determined by DCPS of 82 percent ("at risk" includes students experiencing homelessness, in the foster care, or families qualify for TANF or SNAP). These meals will be served over the course of School Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The project includes expanding relationships with 70 local suppliers who already work with DCK, bringing fresh, local produce and relevant agricultural education to an estimated 3,300 new students.

Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School – \$99,997

Washington, DC

Grant Type: Implementation

The Stokes School Freedom Farm represents the culmination of efforts to establish a working farm. Stokes School's Brookland campus is on 2.14 acres in northeast Washington, DC, and half acre of this land is available for farm space. The DC Department of Parks & Recreation has two community garden plots between the school's Brookland and East End campuses, which can also be used. The produce will be incorporated into school meals, promoting nutritional education and the importance of a balanced diet. There is sufficient storage for produce from the farm. Excess produce will be used for entrepreneurial activities such as farmers' markets, fostering students' business skills, and promoting community engagement. Freedom Farm will serve as an extension of the classroom, bridging science, social studies, and environmental education. It will provide students with hands-on experiences, connecting them to nature, food production, and the importance of sustainable agriculture.

West Virginia

Sunset Berry Farm and Produce, LLC – \$99,213

Alderson, WV

Grant Type: Implementation

Sunset Berry Farm and Produce, in partnership with West Virginia University Cooperative Extension, West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and six schools across Summers County, Pocahontas County, and Monroe County school districts propose the "Promoting Year-Round Farm-to-School Benefits through Freeze-Dried Initiatives" project to increase access to local foods for children in area schools and expand their knowledge about food and agriculture, while also providing a new, sustainable market for local farmers. This project will be accomplished by determining the economic feasibility of shelf-stable freeze-dried fruits and vegetables and farm to school markets, providing school children with the opportunity to try foods made with local freeze-dried foods to increase interest in local foods on school menus, and incorporating experiential learning activities into the school curriculum that teach students about how and where their food is grown.

Wisconsin

Nourish Farms, Inc. – \$49,998

Sheboygan Falls, WI

Grant Type: Turnkey - Edible Gardens

Nourish Farms, Inc. will establish a new hoophouse on the Nourish Farms 13-acre campus, expanding access to accommodate 75 full-class visits engaging up to 1,875 early childhoods through grade 12 students in hands-on gardening and cooking activities. Because many partner schools are in urban settings with no space for gardens, bringing students to Nourish during the school day offers the best opportunity to engage students in experiential gardening activities that show students where their food comes from. Nourish educators will create a correlating field trip curriculum for all grade bands,

in alignment with core content standards. A nine-member Edible Garden Team includes these three partners Sheboygan Area School District, Sheboygan Falls School District, and the Plymouth Joint School District.

School District of Bayfield – \$50,000

Bayfield, WI

Grant Type: Turnkey - Planning

The School District of Bayfield is a culturally diverse, rural district in northern Wisconsin serving the communities of Bayfield, Madeline Island, and the Red Cliff Ojibwe Nation, of which 83 percent of students are tribal members. The District will expand agriculture programming into middle and high school to support food sovereignty learning, nutrition knowledge, and career exploration in agriculture. The project will connect local and regional experts in native agriculture education - including and not limited to food sovereignty knowledge holders, seed keepers, wild ricers, fisherfolk, gardeners, and farmers with Bayfield School staff and students to promote agriculture and wellness in the communities served and increase the local food purchased and consumed in the local economy.