

New Hampshire USDA F2S Grant Awards

2014

Portsmouth School Department

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Planning; \$30,737

The CLIPPERS Farm to School project is an exciting school department initiative in Portsmouth, NH, a small, vibrant city in the Seacoast region of southern New Hampshire. Over the past several years, pioneering parents, students, community members, teachers and staff have taken the initiative on their own to bring fresh, healthy, locally grown food into our classrooms, cafeterias, and consciousness. Some schools have started gardens. Another has a student- run environmental club. Our cafeterias are composting. We're making soup from locally grown pumpkins, talking to farmers about bringing local beef into the district, and offering "Try It" days to give students a chance to discover new foods. Our challenge now is to build on this excitement, spread the good ideas across the district, and make the work sustainable over time. The funding for this grant will allow us to do the planning we need to make this dream a reality.

2016

Portsmouth School Department

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

As a recipient of a USDA Farm to School Planning grant in 2013, Portsmouth schools are poised to focus on personal, community, and environmental wellness as part of the farm to school experience and education. The program's vision is to provide district graduates with a comprehensive experience and education that positions them to partake in farm to table efforts as healthy, thoughtful, responsible citizens.

Seabrook School District

Hampton, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Planning; \$42,376

Seabrook School District will engage in seven strategies to increase access to local foods for prekindergarten through 8th grade students: 1) secure resources; 2) collect data; 3) build school-wide buy-in; 4) increase academic capacity; 5) develop an innovative procurement plan; 6) raise funds and plan for sustainability; and, 7) develop an inclusive, comprehensive farm to school action plan.

2018

Somersworth City School System

Somersworth, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Planning; \$41,093

Somersworth School District will (1) develop a district-wide compost and food waste reduction program, (2) provide professional development for teachers to utilize school gardens as outdoor classrooms, (3) increase farm to school learning opportunities for students in the after-school and summer programs, and (4) develop a local foods procurement plan with the school food service department.

2019

Nashua School District

Nashua, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Nashua Farm to School (FTS) Coordinators shall further enhance the Nashua Farm to School Program. Program improvements include: building educational school garden spaces, incorporating FTS curriculum, and expanding local procurement by the District. Key partners include teachers, student-run garden organizations, Regenerative Roots, Grow-Nashua, NH Farm to School, UNH Cooperative Extension, the United Way of Greater Nashua, Sullivan Farm, administrators, Nashua Rotary Club, Nashua Food Council, Gorham Consulting, Hillsborough County Conservation District, and multiple other community organizations and volunteers.

North Country Farmers' Cooperative, Inc.

Colebrook, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Planning; \$26,560

The North Country Farmers' Cooperative, Inc. (NCF Coop) will spearhead the formation of an Action Plan to get local food into schools in Northern NH (Grafton, Carroll, and Coos Counties). Key partners include the Food Service Directors of 6 school districts, and three regional partners also working on local food initiatives: Farm to School in SAU 7, Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, and Farm to School in Gorham.

2020

New Hampshire Department of Education

Concord, New Hampshire

Grant Type: State Agency; \$50,132

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) will implement a three-pronged approach to increase connections made for NH Farm to School. The NH DOE in collaboration with NH Farm to School will plan and execute a fall 2020 NH Farm to School Conference. School food service directors, teachers, and other farm to school stakeholders will learn local procurement strategies, nutrition and agriculture education information and best practices to increase the amount of local foods served in schools especially in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). The NH DOE will then produce training videos in the spring of 2021 to empower school kitchen teams to efficiently process local foods for all programs with a focus on

fresh fruits and vegetables for the FFVP program. The final approach will be the creation of a local procurement toolkit, which will be piloted by three schools in different regions of the state. Once evaluated the toolkit will be disseminated to all schools in State.

Somersworth City School System

Somersworth, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,664

The Somersworth School District consist of 1,482 students in four schools and is located in Strafford County, which ranks eighth out of the 10 New Hampshire counties for health outcomes. The District's participation in free and reduced meals remains at 46% since Somersworth's 2018 USDA planning grant. The project will collaborate with Seacoast Area Mobile Market (SAMM), which purchases from school gardens. The K-8 schools will also participate in SAMM education programs to engage students and their families in local food economy, nutrition education, garden and farm education and environmental impacts of eating locally. The project will also expand school composting efforts with increased district support, increase community connections to local foods and farms, expand sustainability-focused student leadership opportunities, and enhance outdoor classroom environments and service learning at all schools, and throughout the greater Somersworth community.

The Cornucopia Project

Peterborough, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

For more than a decade, the Cornucopia Project has delivered a continuum of "edible education" to children in the Monadnock Region of Southern New Hampshire. The project will allow for the expansion of experiential and curriculum-based, hands-on education in elementary school gardens, in teaching kitchens and on the Cornucopia Educational Farm, a one acre organic farm, providing hundreds of students in grades K-12 first-hand opportunities to connect to where good food comes from. Funds will also support the organization's ability to outreach into and connect with schools in the region and to make more local produce available from the Cornucopia Farm to students through food service programs.

2021

Merrimack County Conservation District

Concord, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$16,501

The Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD) will work with youth in the Merrimack Valley to support and grow school garden and agriculture projects and, with school garden committees, build long-term sustainability of the gardens. MCCD provides technical assistance, connections to local food insecurity agencies, and building assistance through their local foods programming. MCCD has worked with these gardens in 2019-2020 and intends to use this grant to build stronger, self-sustaining programs at these schools.

Milan Village School

Milan, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$39,280

The Androscoggin Valley Farm to School Program will increase local procurement efforts in their schools, create stronger agriculture connections through educational opportunities and build community capacity featuring gardening networks to engage youth and adults. Our project will recruit 7 schools (Preschool through 12th grade) to participate in a valley wide farm to school network.

NH Department of Education

Concord, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$10,331

The New Hampshire (NH) Department of Education (DOE) Office of Nutrition Programs and Services (ONPS) in partnership with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension, NH Farm to School, and an advisory team from the NH Farm to School Network, will hold two, two day, producer trainings across the state. The Agricultural Producers Training team will tailor the trainings to NH producers, market the two opportunities, and hold the two trainings in strategic locations to ensure producers across the state will be able to attend. The NH DOE ONPS is delighted for this opportunity and looks forward to work on this project to help strengthen Farm to School market channels and increase local food in schools.

ORGANIZATION FOR REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT SUCCESS

Manchester, New Hampshire

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,168

ORIS and its Fresh Start Farms Food Hub, in partnership with Manchester School District, Nashua School District, New Hampshire Farm to School, Genuine Local, Manchester Grows, Regenerative Roots, Greater Nashua Food Council, and Grow Nashua, will improve access to local foods in select Manchester and Nashua public schools through comprehensive farm to school programming, including local food procurement and agricultural education activities. Local farmers, processors, and community organizations will collaborate with students, teachers, and food service staff to bring more locally produced food into schools and deliver a hands-on, school meal education initiative. The project will involve 3,154 students across 4 Manchester and 2 Nashua elementary and middle schools, with a high eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches.