

Wisconsin USDA F2S Grant Awards

2013

Growing Power, Inc.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,868

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

Sparta Area School District

Sparta, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Planning; \$35,085

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

2014

Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative

Washburn, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$76,742

Expanding farm to school in northern Wisconsin will require solving the challenge of a very short growing season. Through a collaborative effort, the Member Producers of the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative will help local school districts install and manage high tunnels to supplement each district's school gardens. The tunnels will allow district educators to implement experiential, project- based learning in the spring and fall seasons. In addition, the high tunnels will help the schools provide nutrient- dense hardy greens and other vegetables to the students in their lunch and snacks. To further the impact of the high tunnels, UW Extension and the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Cooperative will develop and implement an "agripreneur" training program to encourage older students to use high tunnels for commercial vegetable production. Further expanding the impact of farm to school efforts in the region, we will assist the community (schools, families, restaurants) in developing locally- relevant meals that are healthy and easy to prepare, that can be served at schools, restaurants, and at home, and that can be sourced from local producers. This multi- faceted approach to farm to school will increase opportunities for experiential learning, the volume of local vegetables consumed at school, and help transfer lessons learned at school to home, where health outcomes are largely determined.

Research, Education, Action and Policy on Food Group (REAP)

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$83,185

REAP Food Group will put in place the necessary systems to increase the amount of locally- grown fruits and vegetables sold by local farmers to school food services, starting by connecting farmers, processors, and buyers at the Madison Metropolitan School District to supply Wisconsin produce for the district's new salad bars.

Winnebago County Health Department

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,870

"re:TH!NK," a healthy living coalition in the state of Wisconsin and a program of the Winnebago County Health Department, will support farm to school programs in three participating school districts through freezing of local produce for use in school lunches, promoting healthy eating through various farm to school activities, events, and programs, and establishing the framework for the development of a self- sustaining system to manage the procurement of locally- grown food for use in school lunches.

2015

Sparta Area School District

Sparta, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,032

The Sparta Area School District project will increase access to fresh produce to students who attend schools in the Sparta, Tomah, and Norwalk- Ontario- Wilton school districts and further develop nutritional eating practices. The project will: develop a plan to serve more locally and regionally procured meats, grains and produce utilizing existing distributors, local farmers and school gardens; establish a procurement plan that incorporates an RFP process for local food producers to supply produce that will maximize the buying power of the coalition while following safety and environmental practices; educate students on local and regional produce choices; equip school kitchens with the equipment and staffs with the tools and knowledge needed to prepare fresh local produce; and develop education and outreach materials to promote the farm to school and harvest of the month programs.

Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Green Bay, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$95,564

This project implements a four- pronged approach to farm to school (program sustainability, local food procurement, nutrition education through a Harvest of the Month framework, and school gardening) in eight public school districts in the Greater Green Bay Area. The proposed project will utilize three key strategies to increase local food procurement in the Green Bay Area Public School District (GBAPSD): the launch of a virtual Green Bay Food Hub to automate the financial and administrative aspects of local food procurement; development of a farmers cooperative and a supply chain specific to GBAPSD; and a focus on building district capacity to process, store and menu fresh produce.

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Oneida, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The project proposed will establish an aquaponics food production system, capable of annually producing fish and supplying fresh produce year round. The aquaponics food system will become an anchor for education through tours, enhance curriculum for food systems, and offer college academic credit for the Oneida High School seniors in partnership with Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College. Youth will experience activities associated with healthy foods, including harvesting traditional corn at an organic farm, picking berries at an orchard and preserving them at the cannery, and developing a healthy menu for the school feast day.

2016

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Training – State; \$19,490

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will host farm to school trainings in each of the seven regions of Wisconsin. Participants will include food service professionals, farm to school advocates, producers, distributors, food hubs, and processors.

Training will include targeted technical assistance around priority procurement topics and a facilitated buyer-supplier networking session.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$97,100

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will increase the amount of traditional and local foods served through child nutrition programs by providing targeted technical assistance. Trainings at each of the Bureau of Indian Education schools in the state will include topics such as recipe development and analysis using traditional foods, how to maximize USDA Foods purchases and the DoD Fresh Program, establishing and maintaining school gardens, and competitive procurement of local foods.

2017

Sheboygan Area School District

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,969

"Nourish Sheboygan Kids" brings together key local partners actively engaged in the Sheboygan-area farm-to-school movement to: (1) increase local food procurement in the Sheboygan Area School District (SASD), (2) expand communication efforts to reinforce nutrition-based learning and promote student participation in the featured local Harvest of the Month and Harvest of the Week school-based lunch and snack programs.

Community Ground Works

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Support Service; \$80,408

Wisconsin Farm to School partners, led by Community GroundWorks and Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at University of Wisconsin-Madison, seeks to continue capacity for baseline activities through the "Strong Roots for Wisconsin Farm to School" program.

2018

Milwaukee Public Schools

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$93,246

Milwaukee Public Schools will increase learning opportunities by offering (1) field trips to explore greenspace and gain knowledge on farming; (2) Indoor Growing Machines and edible schoolyards to access fresh produce, tastings, and samplings; and (3) curriculum integration through a specialty agriculture science program. Students will engage in agriculture-based learning to increase awareness of careers in animal science, horticulture science, food science,

environmental science, agribusiness, and culinary arts. This multi-faceted project develops student leaders as stewards for urban agriculture while expanding youth access and familiarity to fresh produce.

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Bayfield, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$82,605

The Mino Bimaadiziwin Sugarbush and Agriculture Education Project is a collaborative effort between the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the School District of Bayfield, Wisconsin. This project will involve student participation at every step of the process in making sugarbush maple syrup, a traditional indigenous food. Additionally, this project will increase school district participation in Mino Bimaadiziwin Farm's activities through field trips and increase district funds towards the purchase of local foods.

2019

La Crosse County

La Crosse, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The La Crosse County Health Department and statewide partners, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will expand the Wisconsin Chili Lunch event to increase the use of Wisconsin-grown foods across the lunch tray, develop supply chains for local products, and improve overall meal quality. The project expects to impact at least 100 school districts across the state, while increasing market opportunities for the state's farmers, processors, distributors, and supply chain partners.

WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,457

Wisconsin Dairy for Wisconsin Schools will address the documented barriers to procuring local dairy products in K12 child nutrition programs, while provided much needed new markets for small and mid-sized dairy farmers. DATCP will work with long-time Farm to School program partners, University of Wisconsin Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) and the Center for Dairy Research to work with dairy processors and a school food purchasing group to make affordable and nutritious WI dairy products available for school food programs across the state.

2020

Greater Green Bay Chamber Of Commerce Foundation, Inc.

Green Bay, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,241

Even with documented year-over-year increases in local produce procurement, two barriers price point and supply-chain logistics - still limit the amount of produce that districts are able to purchase from local farms. The project will address these barriers, by collaborating with a group of local farmers and nine Brown County school districts in a four-phase cycle of planning, planting, processing and promoting select local produce items. The goal is to develop a replicable process that identifies and leverages efficiencies as well as helps local producers further develop the operations needed to scale production for larger, institutional buyers. This proposal scales-up and further develops on-going local procurement efforts to increase the amount of local, healthy food consumed by students.

Madison Metropolitan School District

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Harvest of the Month: Linking Students, Farmers, Food and Education, will affect 27,000 students in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), where over 50% of students qualify for the Free or Reduced Price meals. MMSD will collaborate with REAP Food Group, Food Wise, and local farmers to highlight a local produce item monthly in the cafeteria menu and through taste tests provide educational lessons and activities in the classroom, bring farmers to classrooms, and visit farms.

Nourish Farms, Inc.

Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,990

Nourish Farms' SC2 project will create lasting, structural changes needed to enhance farm to school efforts in seven eligible public school districts in Sheboygan County, increasing access to local foods for 17,556 pK-12 students. SC2 features the following comprehensive farm to school activities: (1) assembling a new Farm to School Advisory Network with members from all 7 partner districts; (2) completing an inventory of food service purchasing practices and menus in all seven districts to identify new local procurement opportunities, revise menus to feature more seasonal, local items, and create a Farm to School SC2 Resource Guide; (3) delivering technical support and creating an on demand video training series to build skills and capacity for school meal professionals in each district; and (4) providing experiential school garden training for teams of parents, school staff members, & stakeholders interested in enhancing agricultural education in their home schools.

Oshkosh Area School District

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Oshkosh Area School District Farm to School Planning Project will focus on the creation of an Oshkosh Area School District Farm to School Action Plan. The project will have a dual focus: 1) to provide a framework and comprehensive road map for the implementation of a local

product tasting and agricultural/nutritional education program (modeled on the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program) which will occur at least twice weekly at all district elementary schools; and, 2) to significantly increase consumption of local agricultural products in the schools' lunchrooms by identifying additional local sources of dairy, produce, and meat and expanding our locally focused product procurement strategies to additional producers.

Southern Door County School District

Brussels, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Southern Door County School District's Farm to School Planning Project will focus on the creation of a district- and community-specific Farm to School Action Plan. The project will have a dual purpose: 1) to identify and develop standards-based, hands-on, relevant and exciting agricultural education "signature projects" for each grade level's curriculum 4K-12 and a host of complimentary grade-level appropriate nutrition education activities; and, 2) to significantly increase consumption of local agricultural products in the Southern Door County schools by developing locally-focused procurement, delivery, and processing strategies.

Unity School District

Balsam Lake, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,005

Unity School District will implement a farm to school program that encompasses the use of local resources found on the 100-acre campus along with resources from the surrounding community. This start-up program will focus on using the district land and greenhouse to supply produce for the food service program and to provide for agriculture education and hands-on learning for students in a combined early childhood through 12th grade.

2021

Milwaukee Board of School Directors

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$49,509

Planting Leadership Seeds: Urban Youth Teach Sustainable Agriculture will improve the Farm to School program at A. E. Burdick School in Milwaukee. The school has a hoop house that is used to teach about urban agriculture. Raised garden beds will be built and installed to increase the amount of edible fruits and vegetables that can be grown. Additionally, the curriculum will add the business component for students to learn how to plant, harvest and sell the food to the community. University of Wisconsin-Madison will provide support through advisory and technical assistance on educational programming, student leadership and learning community development, professional development for staff, and evaluation activities related to edible garden. Reflo will support the program with rainwater harvesting for the gardens. Overall, the program will move from teacher led to student led urban agriculture with the older students teaching the younger ones.

Rooted WI, Inc.

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Through the Wisconsin Farm & Gardens to School (WI FG2S) project, long-lasting efforts in WI FG2S will help provide sustainable food and social systems. In an intentional and thoughtful way, kids, teachers, and food-service professionals will be connected to local, healthy food systems to support the overall health and well-being of students in elementary schools. The WI FG2S project has 4 main goals: (1) design an experiential Farm & Garden to School Education Curriculum Framework, (2) strengthen partnerships rooted in Farm to School and School Garden sustainable practices in WI, (3) provide trainings and resources for educators that support farm- and garden-based projects and lessons, and (4) support a WI FG2S Education Program. This project will also include a Sustainability Plan to continue work on WI farm to school efforts while supporting the Wisconsin School Garden Network initiatives, networking, and garden-based educational outreach for schools.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Madison, Wisconsin

Grant Type: State Agency; \$70,116

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team proposes a multimodal training project: "Lifecycle of Farm to School," open to all school nutrition professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs throughout Wisconsin. Goals include expanding school nutrition professional's farm to school teams, providing opportunities for peer-to-peer mentoring, equitably supporting farm to school activities, and sustaining efforts. The focus is eight experiential workshops, highlighting stages of a school garden over a year timeframe, at diverse locations, including video recordings of all workshops to increase access and overall project reach. Key partners include the DPI Communications Team, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Nourish Farms, REAP Food Group, Rooted, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and champion school districts, Madison Metropolitan School District and Holmen School District to further grow Wisconsin's Farm to School Network.