

## Ohio USDA F2S Grant Awards

2013

### **Cleveland Municipal School District**

*Cleveland, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

The Cleveland Municipal School District will engage the technical services and expertise of the Ohio State University Extension to help facilitate and guide us in the development of a more coherent strategy and approach to farm to school programming. The end result of this planning grant will be a robust implementation plan which will blend the programming of our food service, academics, and health/PE departments, and leverage the local farming infrastructure that surrounds the city of Cleveland.

2014

### **Fremont City Schools**

*Fremont, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$29,735*

Fremont City Schools seeks a Farm to School Planning Grant benefiting 4,236 students in Sandusky County, Ohio, where more than 60% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch and 14% are obese. While Fremont City Schools has undertaken some related activities to date, no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. The farm to school grant would further the health and wellness efforts laid out in the school district's strategic plan, and expand initiatives to all nine schools in the district, therefore embedding farm to school activities into school culture and keeping them front and center in the broader community.

### **Reynoldsburg City School District**

*Reynoldsburg, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$42,197*

The Reynoldsburg Edible Schoolyard Project is designed for K- 12 students to learn about nutrition, make ecological observations, and learn about local food systems and the business of creating a garden- to- cafeteria program. Partners include local child- care provider, Kiddie Academy of Reynoldsburg, and the City of Reynoldsburg's Parks and Recreation Department. The education program will be integrated into the district's K- 12 STEM curriculum as well as STEM- focused afterschool and summer programs.

### **South Euclid Lyndhurst School District**

*Lyndhurst, OH*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,949*

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Project Chyahoga County's first farm to school program will continue to make the healthy choice the easy choice for students in the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District. Over 24 months, the South Euclid Lyndhurst Project will continue to increase the quality and variety of locally procured offerings; establish new procurement methods; assist with capital investment in kitchen infrastructure needs; and launch a social marketing campaign.

2015

**The Ohio State University Extension**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event - State; \$24,992*

The Ohio State University Extension will offer a statewide conference, "Local Foods across the School Meal Tray." Focusing on procurement methods, the conference will help food service professionals learn how to obtain local foods and help producers learn how to better market products to schools. It will feature speakers from producer associations, state agencies, and the Ohio State University Extension. In breakout sessions, specialists and school professionals from throughout Ohio will address types of foods suitable "across the meal tray" and best practices (procurement methods, "Smarter Lunchrooms," food safety, and classroom activities) "across the school day." Product category sessions will highlight what can be done to make foods more marketable to schools, new ways to serve traditional products, and ways to incorporate foods from various categories. Online marketing tools to develop connections between producers/distributors and school buyers will also be demonstrated.

**Stark County Educational Service Center**

*Canton, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$43,831*

The Stark County Educational Service Center (Stark ESC) seeks a farm to school planning grant benefiting 36,554 students in eight districts located in rural, urban, and USDA designated food deserts in Stark County, Northeastern Ohio. Of these students, 43% qualify for free and reduced lunch, and represent 58% of enrolled students in the county school system. Stark ESC is working with 12 participating school districts to connect food, farms, schools, and communities in a collaborative effort that establishes a consistent and sustainable plan for local foods procurement, nutrition, wellness, healthy choices, food system education, and community food literacy as part of its farm to school vision. Stark ESC has no current county or district implementation plans, with no branded farm to school activities or outreach. This grant would support the Stark ESC vision and the included districts' desire to include the farm to school program into its cooperative model.

**Rural Action, Inc.**

*The Plains, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

In "Farm to Institution to Schools: Connecting Value Chain Partners for Appalachian Ohio Schools," Rural Action, Inc. will work with a network of six rural school districts to overcome fresh, local product preparation barriers by collaborating with Hocking College to provide centralized preparation work as part of culinary arts student lab experience. Fresh produce from the Chesterhill Produce Auction will be purchased by schools, delivered to Hocking College, prepared and preserved using flash freezing as part of training hours, and sent to participating schools for use in dining service menus throughout the week. Hocking College will provide training for in-house preparation of fresh, local products in K-12 school cafeterias for expanded school capacity. School administration will receive technical assistance on local production through experiential learning opportunities at participating farms. Preparation and preserving capacity at Hocking College will increase availability and purchasing of local products.

### **Akron City School District**

*Akron, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,999*

Akron Public Schools seeks to establish a farm to school program which will ultimately serve all 22,000 students in this urban Ohio district. In recent years, the district has made some effort to provide healthier meal options for students, and the goal is to increase the amount of fresh local fruits and vegetables to help improve students' health, quality of life and longevity. Curriculum will be developed to align with the concept of making healthy choices, the importance of eating locally grown foods, and the benefits that sustainable farming bring to people and the environment. Among other partners, the district will collaborate with Hattie Larlham Community Services which has three years of organic farming experience in the Akron area.

### **Springfield City School District**

*Springfield, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,760*

Spearheaded by the Springfield City Schools (SCSD), an urban district with 8,000 students, the Springfield Grows Farm to School Initiative will contribute to a more economically stable, academically strong, physically healthier, and food secure community. This will be accomplished through two overarching goals—to support the academic, social, and career success of youth through project-based learning through agriculture, and to develop an integrated local food system that links local producers with the various SCSD food programs. The grant will accelerate the success of the initiative by providing the initial support to retain a part-time project coordinator to ensure the development of a stakeholder team and a strategic plan that ensures an integrated local food system. A part-time farm manager will be retained to experiment with and evaluate project-based learning opportunities that connect to the Common Core standards in three pilot schools before the project is scaled up to include the remaining 12 buildings in the district.

## **Cuyahoga County District Board of Health**

*Parma, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Cuyahoga County District Board of Health will engage multiple school districts in an effort to expand their farm to school programs. The project will facilitate connections and leverage partnerships across the supply chain to improve access to healthy, locally grown foods and to strengthen the regional food system's economy, enhance connections to the classroom, and create a Harvest of the Month program.

**2017**

## **Springfield City School District**

*Springfield, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,668*

The project will identify sources for locally produced food and link them with the Springfield City School District's (SCSD) distributor and also support direct linkages between the school district and area food producers. It will pilot an innovative community-based approach to processing bulk items, such as apples, for school-based snack or after-school programs. Garden-based activities, including Project Based Learning, will continue to develop at schools with existing gardens. The project will also provide support for installing two winter gardens at schools, transforming one school garden into a dual school-community garden, and increase access to locally grown food through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs.

## **Columbus City Schools**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,309*

The "Bigger Procurement, Smaller Bites" project involves purchasing equipment that will clean, slice, preserve, weigh, and bag local apples with the capacity to expand to additional fresh, local produce including, but not limited to, carrots, cucumbers, and squash. Ohio apples are a natural first choice in Columbus City Schools' (CCS) efforts to offer more sliced, fresh, local fruit in their cafeterias. The project will further strengthen the relationships developed between CCS Food Service and local food system partners.

**2018**

## **Rural Action, Inc.**

*The Plains, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,820*

Rural Action (RA) will build upon an existing regional partnership of four organizations working in local and healthy food system development in the Appalachian region of Ohio. The four partners—RA, Live Healthy Appalachia, Community Food Initiatives and the Appalachian

Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) will leverage and expand upon the collective impacts of their farm to school and healthy eating initiatives by intentionally connecting their current programs. The four partners along with their school district and farm partners, will create a multistakeholder farm to school culture that supports expectations and capacity for year-long local food consumption that works to equate local food with healthy food.

**Stark County Educational Service Center**

*Canton, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,299*

Stark County Schools "Putting Down Roots", will target and invest in four themes; sustainability, marketing, procurement, and education using strategies in the classroom, cafeteria, and community.

2019

**Adams County Ohio Valley School District**

*West Union, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,645*

Adams County Ohio Valley School District will engage school personnel, local producers, community stakeholders and students as it develops an Action Plan that will introduce and sustain a farm to school initiative. This effort will be used for development of a pilot program at the district's Career and Technical Center, bringing locally-produced meats, vegetables, fruits and milk to school lunches. Upon the successful completion of the pilot program, local product will be introduced in the district's other seven buildings.

**Appalachian Center for Economic Networks**

*Athens, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Training; \$24,000*

The Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) will provide Food and Drug Administration (FDA) processing, Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans for participants attending two day workshops in the ACEnet Food and Farm Enterprise Center and the Food Ventures Center in Athens County. The workshops will provide hand-on training in food processing and product development to Farm to School project managers, food hub and commercial kitchen operators, specialty crop producers, livestock producers, and wholesale food processors to scale Farm to School access in Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. Attendees will be trained to develop FDA thermal processed, fresh-cut, frozen and dehydrated products to extend seasonal demand by schools districts beyond fresh produce.

**Cuyahoga County District Board of Health**

*Parma, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Feed Our Future team will utilize farm to school strategies that connect producers to the cafeteria through a local food procurement bid and piloting minimally processed product; collaborate to develop complex produce centric recipes and provide regional culinary trainings; and convene parents, students, and stakeholders through digital media and in person events to create opportunities for school aged children to make mindful choices for what they eat.

### **Franklin County Public Health**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,332*

Franklin County Public Health will recruit additional public school district in Franklin County to participate in Ohio Days: My Plate, My State. This program features one meal a month served in school cafeterias that is entirely grown, raised and/or processed in Ohio. The project team will also work with schools and community partners to evaluate the Ohio Days: My Plate, My State harvest of month program and perform a current conditions of farm to school activities in Franklin County. The assessments will culminate into develop lasting tools and resources that support access to Ohio grown, raised and/or processed foods, develop integrated curriculum tools and resources for educators, establish a Franklin County Farm to School Coalition and award mini grants to support farm to school activities.

### **Green Umbrella**

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$46,131*

Green Umbrella, Greater Cincinnati's regional sustainability alliance, is partnering with Cincinnati Public Schools, West Clermont Public Schools, Mt. Healthy Public Schools and Campbell County Public Schools to develop a regional Farm to School Action plan. Through leveraging existing community partnership, local food hubs, and statewide and national resources to, the planning coalitions will develop implementable strategies for increasing local food in school menus, overcoming production and distribution barriers, integrating food production and nutrition education into classrooms, and better connecting the broader community to the schools' farm to school programs.

### **Parma School District**

*Parma, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$47,638*

Parma School District will build and implement a healthy farm to table programming throughout the district and community through collaboration with all district programming including such as Career Technical Education, Special Education and Nutrition Services.

### **Steubenville City Schools**

*Steubenville, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$48,215*

Steubenville City Schools will work with Jefferson County Farm Bureau and Ohio State University to bring local produce into the school cafeteria and support a comprehensive student-focused curricula incorporating agricultural-based learning. All 2,415 Steubenville students - urban youth facing intergenerational poverty, food scarcity, and low levels of education, will benefit.

### **Values-in-action Foundation**

*Cleveland, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000*

Values-in-Action Foundation will establish a school and community garden at John Adams High School in Cleveland, OH as part of their Project Love High School of Character, Values & Community program. The comprehensive school-wide character education/social-emotional learning program, is fully integrated into the John Adams building and curriculum and works with the entire student body (550 students enrolled in 2017/2018) each year. As part of the establishment of the garden this new program element will also integrate agricultural, nutritional and environmental lessons into the student's standard curriculum, as well as yearly community planting and harvest celebrations. Eventually John Adams will be able to use the fresh produce harvested from the garden in the cafeteria as part of the school lunch program, possibly sharing their bounty with neighboring Nathan Hale elementary and middle school.

### **A Whole Community, Inc.**

*Wooster, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,214*

"Growing a Farm to School Community in Wayne County" is a unique collaboration between the nonprofit A Whole Community, Inc., Northwestern Local Schools, Wooster City Schools, and The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center, and Wayne County Extension. Using a multi-faceted approach that will increase local produce on school menus and create a flourishing Farm to School culture in the school and community, this project will: expand the supply chain partnerships to offer a diverse array of local produce for schools to purchase, implement an Individualized Farm to School Plan for each school to identify barriers and create solutions, including providing food service staff with training, menus, recipes, and kitchen supplies, and implement Farm to School Ambassador Clubs, led by school staff and college interns, that are student driven and parent supported, as they host experiential nutrition education activities.

2020

### **Community Roots**

*Mount Vernon, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$47,885*

Mount Vernon City School District is home to almost 4,000 students in six elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. The main objective of the Farm to MV Project is to build a sustainable, comprehensive Farm to School Program focused on local food procurement, agricultural education and school gardens focused on building the program using a Farm to School Action Plan. Farm to MV will build a Farm to School program by strengthening farmer partnerships, reviving and building school gardens, and working with curriculum specialists and teachers to integrate K-12 curriculum that compliments standards while enhancing agriculture education. This will be possible through the hiring of a full-time Farm to School Coordinator, creation of a Farm to School Action Team, and collaboration of several community health and education organizations.

### **Federal Hocking Local School District**

*Stewart, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,817*

Federal Hocking Local School District (FHLS) will develop, implement, and share a system for identifying and ordering local food products. FHLS will collaborate with Rural Action and leverage their 25 years of experience in rural development and Farm to School network creation to connect with a wide network of producers. The project will build a long-term system for easy local procurement, launch a district wide Farm to School educational and marketing plan, and develop a replicable Farm to School toolkit that works for rural schools, cafeteria staff and local farmers.

### **Nightingale Montessori, Inc.**

*Springfield, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

Nightingale Montessori, Inc. will expand the outdoor classroom learning gardens and equip a community teaching kitchen facility so that it can pilot a living laboratory classroom for hosting community workshops. The school serves the students of urban Springfield, Ohio, a qualified opportunity zone, and 40% of students participate in the free and reduce price program. The project will collaborate with a neighboring school, Catholic Central HS and the rural Heron Berry School Farm in the county where students go to harvest farm produce, prepare and consume farm foods on site. This will help supplement school meals with fresh, locally sourced fruits and vegetables. This hands-on experience model will be share with other schools in the Clark County area.

### **Ohio Department of Agriculture**

*Reynoldsburg, Ohio*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$100,000*

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, will expand the current statewide Ohio Farm to School Network to provide a framework for cohesive



communication and coordination among farm to school programs across the state. The network will unify the state by creating regional networks to develop a “Highlight my Plate” campaign. The project will aid food service directors in procuring local food, engaging more farmers in growing and selling produce to schools, and strengthen communication to share resources with other entities across the state.

2021

**Spice Field Kitchen, Inc.**

*Cleveland, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$36,400*

Local Lessons for Growing Minds (LLGM) is a curriculum focused on changing the way people connect to their community food system. The multi-media curriculum modules will be anchored around Feed our Future core tenants and will include video components highlighting local producers, agricultural growing practices, and easy culinary applications. This initiative contributes to both educational curriculum requirements and life skills students can apply at home. LLGM modules also include supplemental materials such as teacher discussion guides and enrichment activities tiered for grade level.

**The PAST Foundation**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,606*

The PAST Foundation believes understanding complex societies – like schools and communities – drive improvements in education. PAST's work in school design and consultation guides schools as they transition to transdisciplinary problem-based STEM learning. The project will develop, implement and share a system for local food procurement, entrepreneurship in agribusiness and a focused agricultural education program.

**Clermont Northeastern Local Schools**

*Batavia, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$45,910*

Clermont Northeastern Local Schools (CNE) will enhance agricultural education and improve farm to school connections through the installation of a greenhouse edible garden. CNE will lead a Farm to School Edible Garden Planning Team, in collaboration with community partners, to develop a comprehensive plan that will ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

**Graham Local School District**

*Saint Paris, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

Graham Local Schools will partner with the local agricultural community, the Champaign County Local Foods Council, area culinary arts programs, Champaign County Family YMCA,

Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and the current resources at each school in the district to provide education about local products, nutrition, production opportunities in the shared-use commercial kitchen and gardening skills. With these entities working together, school meals at GLS will be able to add more locally grown items to the school menu. The primary goal is to promote nutritional education and healthy choice making in the schools and communities for years to come.

### **Green Umbrella**

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,524*

Green Umbrella's Food Policy Council (FPC) will lead development of the region's existing farm to school programs into a collaborative network for mutually accelerating everyone's successes. Leveraging the success of Cuyahoga County's Feed our Future model (FOF), the FPC will convene a Greater Cincinnati Regional FOF Advisory Board, enlist nine key community partners for two years to use FOF branded materials and visual components in partnership with participating schools, conduct a FOF Local Menu Takeover Mini Grant Program for eligible schools, establish a Regional Farm to School Curriculum Coordinator, launch a training program for cohorts of teachers to develop more advanced farm to school educational expertise, and coordinate connecting community education content and programs to the FOF Framework. The project will impact students and producers across the 10 counties served by Green Umbrella in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

### **MyWhy**

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,536*

Grow Where You are Planted will establish a year-round farm to school initiative that will increase locally grown produce to Title One schools located in Cincinnati food deserts. The program will provide hydroponics training and growing opportunities, fieldtrips to local farms, an Urban Agriculture Kids afterschool program and will host on school site Farmer's markets, improving the accessibility, availability and affordability of healthy foods to students, their families and the community.

### **Reynoldsburg City School District**

*Reynoldsburg, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,180*

The Reynoldsburg City School District will expand its Biotechnology/Agriculture pathway and capacity to grow and distribute produce at a school-based urban farm. Investments will support infrastructure to increase production, harvesting and processing of food; distribution of food through school cafeterias, local food bank and community farmers' market; project-based curriculum for agriculture pathway students; and a paid student internship program.

**Saint Stephen Community Services, Inc.**

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,460*

Saint Stephen's Community House Urban Farm and Columbus City School District will cooperatively develop a shared use model that leverages community-based agriculture assets to support a continuum of STEM-based farm to school experiences and learning activities for children ECE/pre-K through grade 12 in the Linden community of Columbus, Ohio. This project will result in sustainable, replicable practices that will increase students' awareness of the importance of consuming nutritious locally produced food, increase students' interest in agricultural careers and food science, and increase the amount of local food consumed by youth residing in Linden