

Pennsylvania USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

People for People Charter School

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,998

The People For People Charter School (PFPCS), an urban K-8 Local Education Agency (LEA- as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education), will develop a plan for farm to school efforts to provide healthy lunches to students through integration of locally sourced products on our menu. We believe that PFPCS can become a model school through planning and then implementing a farm to school program as following: connect with local producers and farmers; increase student access to local produce and regional food items; prepare our kitchen and kitchen staff to meet the demands of serving fresh, local produce; and educate our students about the importance of healthy eating habits.

Norristown Area School District

Norristown, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Planning; \$25,920

The Norristown Area School District's Farm to School Project will build on the current foundation in place that works to provide nutritious and enjoyable meals to students while creating an environment that encourages good health and wellness. The Farm to School Project will integrate fresh and local foods into the National School Lunch Program and will teach students the importance of developing healthy eating habits. We plan on accomplishing this goal by: connecting with local farmers, utilizing the district's health partners, increasing access to fresh, local food, train staff members how to serve and prepare different types of foods, expand school gardens, conduct taste tests and educate students about good nutrition and eating locally.

2014

The School District of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$95,500

The School District of Philadelphia Eat Fresh Here project will freeze local seasonal produce during the months of June and July so that it can be used during the winter months when such produce is not locally available. Produce will be frozen at a central location and maintained in freezers in two to three locations. The first year of the project will be a pilot focused on one product, such as blueberries, for two schools. Having a pilot program in the first year will allow the School District of Philadelphia to address any challenges that arise in areas such as, but not limited to, freezing, distribution, taste testing and recipe development. Blueberries will be used in breakfast items such as yogurt, baked goods and oatmeal. In the second year, we plan on

freezing two products, such as blueberries and collard greens. The program will be introduced to an additional five schools for a total of seven participating schools.

2015

The Food Trust

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$38,443

The Food Trust proposes to convene a Mid- Atlantic regional farm to school conference, focused on improving supply chains through a day of procurement training, discussion, and networking. “Field to Tray: Strengthening Farm to School Local Food Purchasing in the Mid- Atlantic,” will bring together state agencies, food service directors, growers, suppliers, and others to envision and plan enhanced farm to school purchasing practices, benefitting children and farmers across the region. “Field to Tray’s” objectives are capacity- building among stakeholders to facilitate local food procurement practices on the ground; strengthening connections among supply chain players to create new and lasting business relationships and; creation of a Mid- Atlantic Farm to School Supply Chain Working Group comprised of school food buyers, farmers, distributors and other suppliers, and other farm to school stakeholders, whose task will be to take the conversation, problem- solving, and networking into the future.

Northern York County School District

Dillsburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,940

The South Central Pennsylvania Harvest Hub is a solution for bridging schools and farms across rural regions of our Commonwealth, both physically and virtually. This is accomplished by connecting produce and goods from local growers to a "consortium" of 42 schools and nearly 25,000 students. Serving schools across three counties, this model has garnered support from farmers' groups, Pennsylvania's Departments of Agriculture and Education, and seven school districts as a means to financially support the local agricultural community while improving student health and strengthening agricultural education. This sustainable model has the ability to expand into urban centers, student training and internship opportunities, faith- based and emergency feeding programs, and other farm- to- institution applications.

Common Market Philadelphia, Inc.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Support Service; \$93,600

Common Market Philadelphia's "An Apple a Day" Program seeks to make nutritious local fruits and vegetables a permanent part of meals at 18 Philadelphia public charter schools serving over 14,000 students. Common Market, a trusted nonprofit distributor of local foods, will act as a bridge between Pennsylvania family farms, a small Pennsylvania value- added processor, and public charter schools. Its staff will provide food safety, product development, packaging, educational, marketing, planning, ordering and delivery support to farm and school food service

partners. The program will move over 1.5 million whole local apples and 1.7 million packages of sliced local apples from sustainable family farms to 14,700 Philadelphia students, 74% of whom are enrolled in the free and reduced price meal program. “An Apple a Day” will increase school food services’ capacity to provide and work with local sustainable produce, laying the foundation for a sustained and meaningful farm to school program.

2016

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Pennsylvania State University

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Training – State; \$25,000

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Pennsylvania State University will host five statewide training sessions to bring together farmers and farmers markets with Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and National School Lunch Program sponsors and administrators. Each training event will feature producer-buyer meetings designed to facilitate cross learning and business connections, and support information sharing and networking.

2017

Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.

Uniontown, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Republic Farm to School Program (RFSP) will partner local school districts with local farmers to provide districts with locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables that will be incorporated into the school meals menu. The RFSP will also strengthen students' knowledge about agriculture, nutrition, and the environment by introducing food-related curriculum to the classroom.

2018

School District of the City of Erie

Erie, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Planning \$23,171

Erie School District will partner with community organizations and Metz Culinary Management to create a comprehensive farm to school implementation plan for the district's 15 schools. The district currently supports 11 school gardens and will develop a detailed assessment of how to include local foods in school meals, provide nutrition and garden education in the classroom, and engage the community regarding fresh foods from the Erie region. The plan will identify possibilities, challenges, key relationships, and best practices involved in implementing a comprehensive farm to school model in the Erie School District.

Grow Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,526

“Grow Pittsburgh” in coordination with the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, will build on successful farm to school initiatives already in place at several Pittsburgh Public Schools to create a standardized district-wide farm to school program. “Grow Pittsburgh” will engage local growers to incorporate fresh, local produce in schools, and engage teachers, parents, students, and food service staff to enhance their awareness, support, and technical skills. “Grow Pittsburgh” will also support Pittsburgh Public School's Purchasing Specialist to research options for using summer produce throughout the school year.

2019

North Clarion County School District

Tionesta, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

North Clarion County School District (NCCSD) will expand upon a school garden that was implemented in the spring of 2016 with assistance from the Pennsylvania Farm to School Grant program. The purpose of the expansion will be to provide sustainable student grown foods on a weekly basis to all students served through the NCCSD cafeteria lunches. The garden will be located on NCCSD property. Produce will be planted and harvested by the students of the NCCSD elementary and high schools using modern agricultural farming methods in cooperation with local farmers and agricultural consultants. Implementing a system to store and transfer produce, primarily potatoes, from the garden to the school lunch menu throughout the school year is an essential component of this grant application that will affect all students within the district. An educational component will override all aspects of the project.

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,982

This project involves development and dissemination of a statewide Harvest of the Month Program for Pennsylvania schools. In addition, through a collaboration with the School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania (SNAPa), Farm to School presentation will be conducted through regional workshops, and Harvest of the Month promotion will be incorporated into SNAPa's annual conference.

Pocono Mountains United Way

Tannersville, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$29,720

The Pocono Mountains United Way will bring various stakeholders together, including four local school districts, a local hospital, local farmers, and the local State University through the community's recently formed Hunger Coalition to develop a county-wide farm to school action plan. Using the USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit, the community aims to increase local food purchasing in school cafeterias, while providing students with immersive education in the classroom and school garden settings to increase local food consumption.

Weavers Way Community Programs D/b/a Food Moxie

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

FOOD MOXIE, Martin Luther King and W.B. Saul Public High Schools and Weavers Way Farms will engage in outreach and listening sessions to create a strategic plan that guides our collaborative efforts in improving and/or expanding experiential and nutrition-based educational activities for over 1000 Philadelphia students eligible for free and reduced lunch programs.

2020

Keystone Central School District

Mill Hall, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

KCSD will establish a Farm to School Leadership Team to create a monthly schedule of engaging Farm to School activities for the 2021-2022 school year. The project's vision is to solidify plans for integrating fresh fruits and vegetables for use first in KCSD's Summer Feeding Program (which began in partnership with the City of Lock Haven in 2019) and later, eventually integrate this model into our National School Breakfast and School Lunch program menus. The project activities include piloting fresh food elements in KCSD's Agriculture Program by rehabbing the existing greenhouse, visiting other districts to explore best practices, attending the National Farm to School Conference, and working with Penn State Extension to develop classroom curriculum and explore other programs that could increase daily access to fresh, healthy foods among KCSD students.

PA Department of Education

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: State Agency; \$99,904

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will develop and deliver a Pennsylvania Farm to School Summit that will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and networking among Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators, establish connections between CNP program operators and producers, and showcase farm to school "best practices." Stakeholders in the Farm to School network will collaborate in planning the summit. PDE will expand the reach of a statewide Harvest of the Month program through promotion of the program to Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program sponsors.

Riverview School District

Oakmont, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Riverview School District will work with community stakeholders to support student grown (at the high school), organic, greens year round for the school and community. In an effort to increase health and wellness within the district and communities, RSD will expand their current hydroponics garden into a classroom system that will be maintained in a climate controlled outdoor space. To increase environmentally sustainable efforts, students, teachers, and cafeteria staff will be trained on using the new outdoor classroom and efforts to decrease food waste while maximizing composting efforts.

The Food Trust

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Food Trust will carry out a two-year project that will improve access to local foods in schools across Pennsylvania (PA) by providing farm to school stakeholders with streamlined resources, training, and technical assistance opportunities supported by a dynamic and sustainable PA Farm to School Network. The project will reach two target populations: stakeholders implementing farm to school activities and school-aged children in Pennsylvania. Farm to school stakeholders include food service professionals, educators, administrators, farmers, suppliers, parents, and community organizations. Key partners include the members of the PA Farm to School Network, including the PA Department of Agriculture and PA Department of Education.

The School District of the City of Erie

Erie, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,867

Erie's Public Schools will grow its program, Erie Farm to School, into a district wide preK-12 pathway. The project will include the following new key components: 1) garden experiences designed specifically for pre-Kindergarten; 2) grade level Harvest of the Month lessons and cafeteria taste tests for K-5 students; 3) grade 5 farm field trips in collaboration with partner YMCA Camp Fitch; 4) the establishment of middle and high school food councils and 5) local food promotions at school food pantries. The district will collaborate with Metz Culinary Management and Edinboro Market to increase school menu offerings and support local food producers in selling to schools and distributors.

2021

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$24,301.20

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will launch and deliver the first ever Bringing the Farm to School producer training in Pennsylvania. This will become an annual effort to give PA farmers the knowledge and tools necessary to successfully and profitably sell fresh local food to schools and other child nutrition programs.

Health Promotion Council

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,001

The integration of horticultural therapy and therapy garden activities in health and human service agencies has been expanding in recent years. The Garden of Eatin' Project aims to improve access to local foods for special education students at Fairwold Academy by expanding the existing garden infrastructure to create an edible teaching garden that provides produce for quarterly Harvest Tasting Events and Take-Home Harvest Days.

Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.

New Castle, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$50,000

Lawrence County Social Service, Inc. (LCSS) hopes to expand their existing efforts to increase and improve access to fresh, local foods in their Early Learning Programs (Pre-K Counts, Head Start and Early Head Start Programs). This will be done through partnerships with local farmers and agencies invested in the development of urban farms and school market opportunities and by training cafeteria staff on fresh produce preparation and preservation techniques to encourage more frequent inclusion on the school menu, and by connecting nutrition programming to the urban community at large. Additionally, LCSS will create a preschool agriculture curriculum that will couple in-class lessons with hands-on activities at the garden and greenhouse facility. Partners include the Mayor's Office of the City of New Castle, Penn State Extension Nutrition Links and Master Gardener Programs, Blueprint Communities, and Adagio Health.

Monroe, County of

Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$44,042

Monroe County Conservation District's Farm to School Activity Curriculum Integration program will develop a hands-on farm to school curriculum for Stroudsburg High School students. Ecology & Food Science courses will be targeted for this pilot project, which can be expanded to other districts in the County through a virtual curriculum and resource guide. The project will provide essential instruction about Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources career pathways, as well as immersive education on the concepts of food justice & sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. Culinary instruction and taste tests will be enhanced by connecting classrooms to local agricultural products and integrating procurement and nutrition activities into their permanent curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to get a first-hand look at farm

operations, ecofriendly practices, and community-building while getting their hands dirty and tasting the fresh, nutritious bounty of the region.

Novick Urban Farm

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$46,516

Novick Urban Farm will plan expansion of its on-farm nutrition education for children and also increase healthy produce access to families through additional farm markets at schools and community sites. Communities will be targeted with a heavy concentration of CACFP populations and those families that use SNAP and FMNP vouchers. Key partners include SEAMACC, Grow Philly, TrueLove Seeds, and The Food Trust who will offer opportunities for deeper connection with target groups.

Today's Child Learning Centers, Inc.

Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,005

Today's Child Learning Center's (TCLC) Farm to School funding will impact over 500 students. More than 70% of these qualify for Free or Reduced meals. TCLC has two locations in the Qualified Opportunity Zones. TCLC will implement a program that reaches four locations and have greenhouses in two locations. Greenhouses will provide agricultural education for all locations through hands-on, reflective, and immersive learning. An agricultural educator will be hired to teach horticulture and greenhouse management. Teachers and students will learn how to propagate, cultivate, and harvest local foods. TCLC will partner with Novick Corporation and children will take field trips to their Urban Farm. The children will receive experiential learning on healthy eating, nutrition, and farming that they will utilize when working in the greenhouse. To expand on the success of the Harvest of the Month Program, TCLC will continue to highlight a local produce item monthly on the school menu.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants/Erie Field Office

Erie, Pennsylvania

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$47,620

The Erie, PA field office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI Erie) will create an Edible Garden in partnership with its own in-house childcare center that serves approximately 75 families, who arrived as refugees or immigrants. This will be a child-centered extension of agricultural programs at USCRI Erie including the Flagship Farms venture for training new refugee and immigrant farmers. The Flagship Farms Edible Garden will connect children with experiential learning in a natural setting at the heart of the city. Expert instructors at USCRI Erie in early childhood education and agriculture will collaborate to build a garden that incorporates harvested produce into lessons, meals, snacks, home surplus, and ultimately, a strong foundation for lifetimes of healthy living. Key external partners are the City of Erie, the Multicultural Health Education Delivery System, and the Early Learning Resource Center.

