

Tennessee USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Board of Education, Memphis City Schools

Memphis, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$40,286

Our overall goal is to develop a plan to create a vertically integrated farm to school program which can serve as a national model for urban SFAs. Next steps in planning for this program are to identify and bring together key players within Memphis and Shelby County, address procurement, processing and storage logistics, and solidify mentoring and internship opportunities for students. This will enable us to reinforce the importance of relationships between the district, community partners and local farmers. Together MCS and its partners will address four objectives: assess the need and readiness for development of a farm to school program, and determine the tools, training, and technical assistance needed to create a farm to school program, including existing infrastructure for farm to school activities; align the farm to school plan with the district's existing goals, identify key internal allies, and identify resources within the community; identify supply chain partners (including one or more aggregators) with whom we could work with to increase our procurement of regional foods by at least 20%; and, generate an implementation plan that includes goals, specific activities, timeline for implementation, and responsible parties for each activity.

2015

Murfreesboro City Schools

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$40,000

Murfreesboro City Schools Farm to School Program identifies sources of locally grown food, procures it, and integrates it into the School Lunch Program; educates students and staff about the process that moves food from farm to table; expands school gardens; conducts healthy food preparation classes; carries out taste tests; and develops a plan to eliminate food deserts. Through the farm to school program, Murfreesboro City Schools forms a solid foundation on which good nutritional practices and health habits will be built.

2016

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Nashville, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$38,682

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools will work with faculty, staff, and the community's School Nutrition Alignment Team to deepen the integration of locally grown foods, nutrition education, and health awareness at high-needs pilot schools. The project will also strengthen relationships

with the farming community, draw on food education partnerships for collective impact, and evaluate best practices to develop a model that can be replicated throughout the district.

2017

The Florence Crittenton Agency

Knoxville, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$14,581

The Florence Crittenton Agency will develop a comprehensive Farm to School Action Plan that will identify sources of locally grown food, procurement resources, and promotion activities for schools and communities. An on-site garden will be planned on a 26-acre campus that will provide gardening activities and healthy food preparation classes to address the nutrition disparity felt by low-income clients.

2018

Shelby County Board of Education (Shelby County Schools)

Memphis, Tennessee

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Shelby County Board of Education (Shelby County Schools) (SCS) will implement a farm to school program with the goal of increasing students' consumption of garden-fresh fruits and vegetables and students' and teachers' awareness of personal development pathways. SCS's centrally located award-winning school garden at Kingsbury High School will be a hub for Pre-K-12 professional development and student engagement. Funds will be used to (1) install a greenhouse and mobile kitchen, (2) build a strong cadre of providers from Kingsbury and four other SCS greenhouse schools, (3) pilot new student engagement activities, and (4) build a robust central resource of best practices, lesson plans, and partnership opportunities with The Kitchen Community and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

2019

Morgan County Schools

Wartburg, Tennessee

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Morgan County is a rural county located in the Appalachian Mountains of East Tennessee. Morgan County Farm to School Hydroponic Greenhouse growing system will allow for a beneficial relationship between the schools' food and nutrition program and Morgan County Career and Technical Center horticulture and culinary arts programs. This project will utilize a traditional greenhouse, primarily used to grow flowers, and convert it to a hydroponic produce growing system. The food and nutrition program plans to purchase produce from the hydroponic greenhouse, and the earning will be reinvested. The culinary program will collaborate with food services and the greenhouse to provide education to the students on utilizing locally sourced produce. These education opportunities are crucial to a rural county school system; learning to

grow crop and becoming educated on healthy lifestyles play a critical role in the development of a more rounded and successful community.

Murfreesboro City Schools

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Murfreesboro City Schools (MCS) Farm to School Program will add 20 hydroponic gardens located in 13 school cafeterias and increase scope and size of school garden beds to our existing program. Through the oversight of our Farmer Educator, a growth cycle will be implemented across the district to increase the supply of fresh vegetables in school cafeterias. The Farmer Educator will work with teachers to ensure students have numerous opportunities to participate in Farm to School activities including planting, harvesting, and farm-based field trips. Likewise, teachers through the aid of Farm to School, will incorporate standard driven comprehensive agricultural and nutrition curriculum into existing lesson plans and after school activities. The program will work under the direction of the Dept. of Nutrition & Coordinated School Health utilizing community resources such as Middle Tennessee State University, UT Extension & Farm Credit.

Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network

Martin, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$48,801

The Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network is collaborating on a Farm to School Planning Project with the Weakley County School District to create a unified vision for Farm to School activities and implementation framework through the creation of a Farm to School Action Plan affecting all Weakley County Schools.

2020

Humphreys County Department of Education

Waverly, Tennessee

Grant Type: Implementation; \$72,650

The McEwen High School Farm to School (F2S) project will expand the capacity of the high school agriculture department to immerse students in hands-on hydroponic food production, peer-to-peer nutrition education, agriculture career exploration, and entrepreneurship. In addition, these students will increase the amount of fresh produce supplied directly to Humphreys Co. School Nutrition Department for the district school meal program.

Trenton Special School District

Trenton, Tennessee

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,530

The project will assess current assets and needs; increase collaboration between stakeholders and school districts; connect with regional farmers; identify supply chain & processing mechanisms; create a marketing plan to educate school district personnel and the public at large about F2S benefits. The project will develop an informed, workable action plan that lays out the process of developing a thriving Farm to School initiative in Gibson. The initial activities of the planning project will be the (1) formalization of the F2S planning team, (2) attending the F2S grantee gathering and (3) hosting a community Farm to Table kick-off dinner to publicly announce the countywide collaboration and provide an overview of the planning process.

2021

Obion County Schools

Union City, Tennessee

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$46,259

The Obion County School District in collaboration with the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network is creating a unified vision and implementation framework via the development of an Obion County Farm to School Action Plan to sustain F2S activities throughout the Obion County School District affecting over 3,000 students while working tight he following key partners and stakeholder groups: University of Tennessee at Martin, area farmers School Administrators, School Teachers, Pre-K-12 students, School Nutrition Staff, Coordinated School Health, and Future Farmers of America group.

Plant the Seed

Nashville, Tennessee

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$49,500

Plant the Seed (PtS), in partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), will expand to weekly garden facilitation lessons at three MNPS early learning centers. Plant the Seed is a part of a national movement seeking to make school gardens sources of vitality in low-income areas that will serve nearly 600 Pre-K students, connecting them to their food, the land, their learning, and one another. Additionally, PtS will develop a teacher training manual and program to ensure garden and food education are sustainably integrated into the students' school week and the school culture.