

Connecticut USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

City Seed, Inc.

New Haven, Connecticut

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,100

City Seed, Inc., proposes to engage a procurement specialist to help New Haven School Food Programs determine and implement strategies that will dramatically increase the amount of regionally grown produce in the meals of over 20,900 urban public school students, nearly 80% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch. The procurement specialist will work under the direction of City Seed's Executive Director and Community Food Coordinator and alongside New Haven Public School (NHPS) Food Services Director and school food workers, NHPS dietician, FoodCorps members, Common Ground food service and educational staff, local farms and businesses, and members of the community to develop: ways of procuring more local food at prices that are fair to farms, processors, and schools; aggregation models that allow Common Ground Public Charter School and other institutions to partake in farm to school; processing needs and creative approaches to preserving in-season produce during public schools' summer vacation; distribution models that are logical and leverage existing resources; marketing and education strategies that include students, parents, teachers, administrators and food service workers; pre and post survey and evaluation tools; and, partners and collaborators within CT and bordering states.

2014

Ledge Light Health District

New London, Connecticut

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

Ledge Light Health District, FRESH New London, and community partners will implement the "Farm Fresh New London County Schools" to increase the consumption of locally grown fresh food in the twenty school districts in New London County, Connecticut. By building the capacity of the 75 farmers in the county to participate in farm to school programming, and by connecting farmers and school food service directors, Ledge Light Health District and partners will support farms and schools in overcoming existing barriers. The parties will work together to develop an electronic purchasing portal to facilitate farm to school purchases in the county. Ledge Light Health District will also build demand for fresh local food among school children and parents through a social marketing campaign, presentations to the Board of Education, town councils, and parent and community groups, and by conducting experiential learning activities.

2015

CT Food System Alliance, New Haven Ecology Project, Inc.

New Haven, Connecticut

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$14,613

The Connecticut Food Systems Alliance and the Connecticut School Garden Resource Center will present a statewide conference in spring 2015. The theme will be "Cafeterias and School Gardens: Where Does Our Food Come From?" All over the state of Connecticut efforts in local food procurement, food education, and the creation of school gardens are taking shape and gaining momentum. We will strengthen the quality and impact of these isolated endeavors by bringing together over 25 farm to school and school garden practitioners, leaders, educators, and volunteers to share best practices, build professional networks, discuss new approaches and resources, explore evaluation techniques, and celebrate innovation and outstanding achievement.

2016

End Hunger, CT!

Hartford, Connecticut

Grant Type: Support Service - Volunteer Service Project; \$98,649

End Hunger CT!, a statewide non-profit food security and nutrition organization, seeks a Farm-to-School Service Support grant to enhance and expand the reach of FoodCorps, a volunteer service project of AmeriCorps, throughout thirteen school districts and communities. Funding through this program will support the launch a new Farm-to-Summer Meals initiative, featuring strategies to procure locally for Summer Meals, ingredient and recipe testing, and enrichment activities to boost participation in Summer Meals. The goal is to build a stronger and more diverse FoodCorps CT.

2017

New London Public Schools

New London, Connecticut

Grant Type: Implementation; \$65,000

New London Public Schools project seeks to establish a program that systematically links fresh food on the lunch tray to student learning in the classroom, school gardens, and in the cafeteria. A strong partnership between the food service program, FRESH New London, and Brigaid, has already strategically increased the accessibility and availability of farm-fresh food to students and the surrounding community.

Hartford Public Schools

Hartford, Connecticut

Grant Type: Implementation; \$93,384

The Hartford School District will incorporate higher volumes of local food into the school menu by installing new processing equipment to establish an enhanced "central production kitchen" in Hartford's Journalism & Media Academy. This kitchen will process, package, and distribute local foods to a network of eighteen schools while increasing the flavor and variety of school meals.

Hartford schools will also expand the district's partnership with FoodCorps to increase nutrition promotion and food education in both the classroom and cafeteria.

2018

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Hartford, Connecticut

Grant Type: Training; \$20,500

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture will develop cross-sector training for Connecticut producers, food service personnel, and other farm to school stakeholders focused on strengthening relationships and increasing participation in farm to school programs throughout the State. Through collaboration between farm to school stakeholders, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture will increase local agriculture products in their schools, contributing to long-term program sustainability.

Granby Public Schools

Granby, Connecticut

Grant Type: Planning; \$30,000

Granby Public Schools will strengthen current wellness practices and plan for new authentic student learning experiences by engaging their Wellness Committee to (1) explore community gardens and the role they can play in school settings from planning to planting, (2) develop comprehensive wellness and science curricula inclusive of robust learning expectations for nutrition, health, and wellness, and (3) explore and grow partnerships with community farms to enrich academic experiences and investigate potential partnerships.

2019

Groton Public Schools

Mystic, Connecticut

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Groton Public Schools will expand the scope of its current Farm to School (F2S) Program, further strengthening community partnerships, integrating more F2S activities into the Groton Public School district's curriculum, and ultimately improve the diet and health of its students.

Thompson School District

North Grovesendale, Connecticut

Grant Type: Implementation; \$81,848

Thompson and Putnam School Districts will collaborate in developing new impactful learning through professional development workshops for teachers and food service staff, in addition to interdisciplinary hands-on learning activities for students. The program will also establish an efficient controlled environment aquaponics garden in each district. The districts will partner with Trifecta Ecosystems, an aquaponics farming leader in controlled environment agriculture,

2020

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Hartford, Connecticut

Grant Type: State Agency; \$100,000

The Connecticut Department of Public Health in partnership with UConn Extension, and the support of the Connecticut Department of Education's Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Farm to School Collaborative will improve access to local foods in eligible sites by expanding a comprehensive Farm to Early Care and Education Program that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts. The program will influence Connecticut's youngest and most vulnerable residents.

Stamford Housing Authority

Stamford, Connecticut

Grant Type: Planning; \$25,712

Stamford Housing Authority d.b.a. Charter Oak Communities (COC) will collaborate with Stamford Public Schools, United Way of Western Connecticut, and Chartwells (school food service provider) to develop a plan for a Stamford Student Food Collaborative Farm-to-School program. The project will engage Stamford high school students and food system stakeholders in advancing youth food security through improving access to fresh, local food in schools.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children

Norwalk, Connecticut

Grant Type: Planning; \$22,401

Stepping Stones Museum for Children will procure the consultancy services of the nationally renowned chef and food justice advocate, Michel Nischan, to develop a three-part action plan over the course of 12 months to improve food offerings in the museum's Healthyville Cafe, which also serves as the cafeteria for the museum's on-site pre-school program.

2021

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Hartford, Connecticut

Grant Type: State Agency; \$82,336

The Connecticut (CT) Department of Agriculture will partner with Extension, the Department of Education, and Food Corps to undertake a comprehensive research and planning process with schools, producers and distributors focused on procuring CT Grown farm products; engage 4 school districts in high need communities to pilot district level food services procurement support and grower outreach along with school activities to enhance these relationships; and develop new curriculum and promotional tools during CT Grown for CT Kids Week, Ag Day at

the Capital and through two new promotional campaigns highlighting diverse voices and food cultures in Connecticut.