

## Indiana USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2014

### **Indiana State Department of Health**

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

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

The proposed project will span two years and will focus on the Indiana Farm to School Network, the Hoosier Harvest Market, Greenfield- Central Community Schools, and the 38 other school corporations in Hancock and surrounding counties. The goals of this project are to help schools find and procure local food by developing an understanding of the opportunities for farm to school in this region of Indiana, with special consideration given to the feasibility of a virtual food hub, and to use a strong, focused network of farm to school partners to establish farm to school programs throughout the state. To accomplish this goal, the Indiana State Department of Health's Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity and partners will engage in activities to develop Indiana's farm to school infrastructure and provide professional development to school food service personnel and local producers.

2015

### **The National FFA Organization**

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$50,000*

To revitalize a sustainable and affordable food system the world needs to cultivate a new generation of farmers and quickly. Through the FFA farm to school regional event, attendees will be provided an opportunity for developing synergistic partnerships to advance farm to school efforts. The event will bring together agriculture educators, FFA state staff, school cafeteria representatives, and farm to school trainers to develop a regional and/or state- wide strategy that will help to grow the next generation of farmers and increase the amount of local foods served in school cafeterias through youth producers. Participants will be challenged to create partnerships at the state, regional and local level to support farm to school efforts; connect local youth producers/FFA members to school food buyers; and identify funding opportunities to support farm to school operations.

### **This Old Farm, Inc.**

*Colfax, Indiana*

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

This Old Farm, Inc. will concentrate on the production and procurement of local products for a growing farm to school initiative in Indiana. This proposal works to expand a partnership between a local food hub or product aggregator, This Old Farm, and two separate pilot school corporations, one rural and one urban. The proposal has two main objectives: producer

education from crop planning to food safety training and processing/portion control for ease in use by food service.

2017

**South Bend Community School Corporation**

*South Bend, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$35,018*

South Bend Community School Corporation will evaluate current evidence of existing farm to school activities, develop a Farm to School Action Plan, and embed farm to school best practices into school culture. The program will work to establish a site-managed garden program that has the potential to support and sustain snacks in the classroom in the future.

2018

**Indiana State Department of Health**

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,468*

The “Indiana Grown for Schools” project will strengthen the existing partnerships between the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Education, and Purdue Extension. This project will engage all of Indiana’s 583 school food authorities through the development of a promotional campaign incorporating all agencies’ farm to school programs into one monthly planner and capacity-building resource. The “Indiana Grown for Schools” monthly planner will support schools in serving one or more meals per month with food that is sourced from Indiana. With coordinated state-level support, the “Indiana Grown for School” monthly planner will promote regular access to Indiana-sourced foods in school cafeterias and increase participation in farm to school.

2019

**Indiana Lifeline Youth and Family Services, Inc.**

*Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,836*

Lifeline will build a community network of volunteers and consultants to develop a Farm to School Action Plan. This plan will address: teaching residential students how to source their own nutritious food; incorporating farm-fresh ingredients into residential and school program’s meals; sharing farm-fresh ingredients with the community at-large; building community connections between agriculture and consumption; and equipping at-risk youth with confidence, pride, and marketable skills in agriculture.

**Maconaquah School Corporation**

*Bunker Hill, Indiana*

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

Maconaquah Cattle Company is a four-year-old agriscience program at Maconaquah Middle School. As part of this program, students study, feed out, and send beef cattle to be processed for school lunches. The Maconaquah School Corporation will expand the scale of the program to supply the entire corporation with local beef and pork, providing students with local, hands-on training, and fully integrating a partnership with a local meat processor.

**Parkview Hospital, Inc.**

*Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$34,390*

In order to combat food insecurity and rising obesity rates in Northeast Indiana, Parkview Health System, Metropolitan School District of Steuben County, Northwest Allen County Schools, East Allen County Schools, and Lakeland Schools (LaGrange County) will develop a comprehensive regional Farm to School plan, including individual school and/or district Farm to School plans for each of the participating partners.

2020

**Bethany Christian Schools**

*Goshen, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$55,088*

Bethany Christian Schools will expand the existing farm to school program to reach all students on campus, grades 4-12, incorporating farm to school aspects into the entire school culture. Students in every grade level of the school will participate in meaningful and creative farm to school activities. Bethany Christian will add a hoop house to expand the existing vegetable garden at the school and extend the growing season. The school will build a chicken coop and students will help to raise chickens on campus. The cafeteria will strengthen partnerships with local vendors so that most every school lunch served includes something grown at the school or by local farmers. Younger students from two neighboring public elementary schools, Waterford Elementary and Prairie View Elementary, will participate in the project by visiting Bethany's campus for educational events and taking other field trips to local farms and markets.

**Ginnfarms Corp dba Fresh Local Food Corporation**

*Aurora, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$74,745*

The Seeds of Hope Farm2School programming offered by Fresh Local Food Collaborative of SE Indiana will organize school leaders, teachers, volunteers, and producers in 10 school districts located in Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, and Ripley counties over the next 18 months. The programming utilizes the three-tiered approach of procurement, tower gardens, and monthly Harvest of the Month tastings to introduce Farm2School to the community. The project will affect almost 19,000 K-12 students by working as the linkage from producer to cafeteria. Fresh Local Food Collaborative (FLFC) will assist Superintendents, Food and Nutrition leaders, as well

as the classroom teachers to be sure Farm2School programming is experiential for the students while meeting state requirements on education.

### **Indiana State Department of Health**

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

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

The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) within the Indiana State Department of Health will administer mini-grants to 7-10 Local Education Agencies throughout the state of Indiana. Grantees will use funding to purchase supplies to help facilitate their transition to a scratch-cooking model. The food service directors (FSDs) and their staff will also receive training through the Whole Kids Foundation's Healthy Foodservice Program. The DNPA, in collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and the Indiana Grown for Schools Network, will also plan and host a statewide buyer-grower collaboration session to help connect local farmers/producers and FSDs interested in procuring local products. Finally, the DNPA will work with the Indiana Grown for Schools Network to create a statewide farm to school recognition program to incentivize participation in farm to school activities in Indiana.

2021

### **Daleville Community Schools**

*Daleville, Indiana*

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

Daleville Community Schools will make eating healthy, local, & delicious food an unforgettable part of the K-12 school experience. A part-time Garden Educator and Coordinator will be hired to create and implement year-round hands-on learning experiences for K-12 classrooms in the district as well as coordinate with teachers, Food-service Directors, and local farmers to increase the amount of nutritious & delicious locally grown foods their students are eating. The program will use the school's 4-acre Outdoor Learning Lab, as well as, smaller garden plots just outside indoor classrooms to learn about growing food. Garden produce will be used for cafeteria prepared delicious meals, spontaneous sampling, and classroom cooking experiments! A highlight of the project will be called the "KinderGarden." In this area, Kindergarten students will raise Carrots to supply the school district cafeterias. Each Kindergarten student will plant carrots in a 2' by 2' raised garden bed.

### **Franklin Community School Corporation**

*Franklin, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$72,497*

This program will improve access to local foods in eligible schools through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local procurement and agricultural efforts. Franklin Community School Corporation will develop and institutionalize an agricultural learning experience in which students and community members grow, harvest, and process local food for the schools and community. The program will impact the school corporation's students,

teachers and staff, and members of the Franklin and greater Johnson County community. As the program extends its reach, it will provide a rich learning experience for students from surrounding counties. Key partners include food service staff, Franklin FFA Alumni, Ag students, and local farmers.

**Lifeline Youth & Family Services, Inc.**

*Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,649*

Funding from the USDA will allow Lifeline to fulfill its Farm to School vision of: 1) teaching youth nutrition and how to source their own food, 2) incorporating farm-fresh ingredients into their program's meals, 3) sharing farm-fresh ingredients with the community at-large; 4) building community connections between agriculture and consumption; and 5) equipping at-risk youth with confidence, pride, and marketable skills in agriculture.

**Wells County Revitalization, Inc.**

*Bluffton, Indiana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,585*

Wells County Revitalization will partner with the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network, Parkview Hospital, and Purdue University Extension Office to improve access to local food in early childcare sites and various schools in northeast Indiana. Program partners will produce 'Harvest of the Month' videos on farms across the region; deliver training and on-going support for school tower gardens, raised garden beds, and/or greenhouse gardens to eleven participating schools; develop curriculum resources to integrate agricultural education and Harvest of the Month taste test activities into classroom instruction; organize taste tests of Harvest of the Month products; develop networking opportunities for school food service staff, local food producers and community members; celebrate Local Food Week, with partner schools, through educational activities hosted on area farms; and, convene the Northeast Indiana Farm to School Team.