

## Maine USDA F2S Grant Awards

2013

### **Portland Public Schools**

*Portland, Maine*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,895*

Portland Maine Public Schools' (PPS) proposes to implement best practices to increase local products consumed by students in the school meal program through innovative purchasing strategies, innovative processing strategies, and increased experiential nutrition education. Our goals for this project are to increase the proportion of local food purchased by the PPS Food Services Program, increase student consumption of local food, and to increase public awareness and community engagement in our efforts. The project plan includes updating central kitchen equipment, certifications, and training in order to become a large volume processor of local foods. The project plan also includes a number of experiential learning activities such as school gardens, after-school agriculture clubs, school curriculum, taste testing, and chef-to-school. Finally, we propose to build awareness regarding the district's farm to school successes through the development of promotional materials, developing a media plan, and holding an annual "Local Food Show" open to the public exhibiting the farms, recipes, and student projects related to farm to school.

### **Maine School Administration District 12**

*Jackman, Maine*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,119*

The school will act as the coordinating agency to provide education, develop and sustain locally grown foods in collaboration with local volunteers and businesses for improved economic development, health and wellness of children and their families and to increase agricultural endeavors in the community. The key components will be to sustain a school garden, form a community planning and governing team, develop a buying cooperative and develop an educational toolkit guide and resource and procedures document to sustain the program.

2014

### **Healthy Communities of the Capital Area**

*Gardiner, Maine*

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

"K- 12 Eating Local Foods" overcomes barriers to institutionalize eating abundant local foods at school every day by developing systems to better link local farms to schools. The two- year project develops resources and processes to overcome existing barriers by streamlining ordering, delivery, and processing through linkages to existing local foods online buying clubs and includes youth engagement. Our twelve- year history of collaboration with many partners includes supporting seven school districts partnering on public health policy and environmental

change efforts. With USDA funding, we will engage schools to address identified barriers to farm to school implementation. "K-12 Eating Local Foods" serves as a pilot for replication and expansion throughout the region and develops infrastructure necessary for successful local procurement. The three schools participating in year one of the project are current collaborators, show a high level of readiness, and reflect the economic diversity of our communities from high need to more affluent. Collectively, we will successfully implement farm to school.

2015

**Regional School Unit 18**

Oakland, Maine

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,213

Region School Unit (RSU) 18 recognizes that a student's ability to learn effectively and achieve high academic standards is directly related to optimal nutrition habits. Our rural school district is just beginning our journey of establishing a farm to school program that will benefit our 2,768 students in 8 schools with a free/reduced rate of 46.79%. The planning grant would help us establish an infrastructure for our farm to school program with the development of a Comprehensive Farm to School Implementation Plan. Currently, our program is based on an individual school and not districtwide. The planning grant would outline and complete a districtwide establishment of our farm to school program that will help our students learn and practice healthy lifestyles in their formative years.

**Healthy Acadia**

*Bar Harbor, Maine*

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

"Downeast Farm to School – Enhancing Local Procurement in Washington County" will help to meet the health, nutrition, and economic needs of communities in a rural region, including two tribal communities, with high rates of free and reduced meals (63% across the county) and food insecurity. This project will increase access to healthy food for children across the region and will strengthen the farm economy. Specifically, it will improve distribution, storage, and processing systems that support local farms and food procurement efforts by schools. It will integrate nutrition policies and education in the school systems, providing engagement and learning among students around nutrition, agriculture, and foods. This is a highly collaborative project, bringing producers, schools, and other entities together to create positive change.

2016

**Auburn School Department**

*Auburn, Maine*

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

The Auburn School District in Maine will formalize the Androscoggin Farm to School Network as a coordinating body; conduct research and analysis to identify current initiatives, best practices, needs, challenges, and strategies to alleviate or reduce barriers to farm to school activities;

foster local procurement relationships between school personnel and producers; and continue the operation of school garden programs to develop models for sustainability.

2017

**Regional School Unit #57**

*Waterboro, Maine*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$33,778*

The Regional School Unit (RSU) #57 Farm to School Program will serve the district's seven schools by implementing food and wellness lessons and activities through farm to school initiatives. Such initiatives include farm field trips, increased procurement of local foods in the cafeteria, taste tests of local foods, and integrating education about the gardens, greenhouse, "zero waste" composting program, and nutrition into classrooms.

2018

**Auburn School Department**

*Auburn, Maine*

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

Auburn Maine School Department will collaborate with Lewiston School District to leverage resources from the Maine Farm and Sea Cooperative, St. Mary's Nutrition Center, and Whiting Farm. Building on prior Farm to School Planning Grant successes, Auburn School Department will enhance and unify school garden education and local food culture while increasing utilization of fresh, local foods in the school system.

2019

**Healthy Communities of the Capital Area**

*Gardiner, Maine*

*Grant Type: Training; \$25,000*

The Maine Farm to School Network at Healthy Communities of the Capital Area, in collaboration with other state farm to school advocates, will offer local procurement and network building training at their annual conference in 2019 and at the annual Tri-State (ME, NH, VT) school nutrition conference in 2020. School nutrition directors, producers, and other farm to school stakeholders will learn local procurement rules and strategies to increase the amount of local foods served in school meals. Participants will also gain a deeper understanding of network building to further strengthen farm to school partnerships across the state.

**Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District**

*Houlton, Maine*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$23,733*

The project will use the "Charlie Cart," a mobile kitchen cart, to provide hands-on nutrition education to students in two elementary schools. Students will be engaged through food and cooking and field trips to local farms. Incorporating produce from local farms will provide students an understanding of where food comes from along with the fundamental cooking skills to incorporate the produce into a simple and healthy meal. Each classroom will use established curriculum for at least one cooking activity in-class. Key partners include lead educators in each school who will help plan and support the project.

2020

**Cumberland County Food Security Council**

*Yarmouth, Maine*

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

The project is based on Cumberland County Food Security Council's unprecedented school food system assessment, which provided the proposal clear guidance and a solid foundation to support lifelong increased consumption of good local food by Portland, Maine students. The "Local Food Fuels Learning" Farm to School project will increase local procurement in Portland Public Schools by five percent. It will increase participation in school food by the 3,777 students eligible for free and reduced price meals by five percent. The project creates labor efficiencies and adds processing equipment to Central Kitchen to facilitate more local food processing. It involves students in agriculture education, "Good Food Clubs", menu development, and taste tests. It creates a school food brand that appeals to students, parents and staff.

**Gulf of Maine Research Institute**

*Portland, Maine*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,391*

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) will increase the amount of local seafood served in schools around New England, thus increasing access to healthy, local protein for students and increasing demand for fish caught by New England fishermen. GMRI will secure pledges from school districts around New England to create a community of schools committed to increasing the amount of seafood they serve. GMRI will also facilitate connections and communication between local seafood processors and school foodservice operators to improve local seafood procurement. Finally, GMRI will provide resources for schools to ensure uptake of local seafood, and will pilot education and engagement strategies to increase seafood consumption.

**Maine School Administrative District 30**

*Lee, Maine*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$48,415*

Maine School Administrative District 30 (MSAD 30) will serve as the lead applicant of a joint Farm to School planning grant for three districts in rural Penobscot County, Maine. MSAD 30, East Millinocket Public Schools, and the Millinocket School Department will use funds to

increase local fruit and vegetable procurement and agricultural education for their 972 K-12 students by developing a Farm to School Action Plan.

2021

**Alfond Youth Center**

*Waterville, Maine*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$48,386*

The Alfond Youth Community Center (AYCC) will develop an agricultural education curriculum for its childcare programs serving youth four to 18 years of age from Waterville, ME, 80% of whom qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. The curriculum will complement the AYCC's existing Garden to Table program that teaches children how to grow food from seed to harvest and prepare and cook the food they grow in the facility's 42-foot greenhouse, outdoor raised gardens beds, and kids' teaching kitchen.

**Sheepscot Valley RSU 12**

*Somerville, Maine*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,853*

Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 will increase the sustainability of a growing farm to school program by adding support and resources for the school nutrition program to increase engagement between students, classrooms, and community health providers. This program will be a replicable model for partner Western Maine Foothills Regional Unit 10 to increase local foods on their menus and generate support and enthusiasm for healthy eating agriculture education and local food providers.

**United Charitable**

*Maine*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$31,819*

Together with committed partners, ReTreeUS will serve 10 schools, sowing the Back to School Gardens concept to address common challenges facing Maine garden educators: maintaining gardens through summer, growing ample quantities for the cafeteria during the school year and the desire for community connections. Collectively reaching 4,459 PreK-12 students, this project will equip schools with gardening, harvesting and processing supplies and expertise in an innovative manner that extends the growing season, builds soil, engages local producers, yields bountiful harvests and maximizes hands-on garden learning opportunities. Collaborators will provide critical contributions: Coast of Maine Organic Products donating compost, Wolfe's Neck Center supplying seedlings, Independent Retailers and Shared Services Cooperative cultivating resources to ensure program sustainability, and Maine Agriculture in the Classroom supplying curriculum materials and expertise to align activities to standards.