

## Washington USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Washington State Department of Agriculture**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$95,539*

Home of the first statewide farm to school program in Washington, WSDA has provided leadership and assistance to connect schools and farms for successful farm to school relationships since 2003. Schools, farms and communities have shown increasing enthusiasm, and consistently come to WSDA for assistance in identifying and sourcing Washington-grown food, promotion and education to students, and navigating complex issues of food safety and procurement rules and regulations. With the loss of state funding for the farm to school program in 2011, and schools facing the challenge of a new meal pattern and geographic preference rules, WSDA seeks USDA funding in order to provide critical farm to school support in the coming year through statewide technical assistance, regional "mobile tours" for educating farms and schools, highlighting agricultural specialties, sharing recipes and establishing regional networks, Taste Washington Day and National Farm to School Month promotions, presentations at conferences and workshops around the state, developing materials on safe use of school garden and farm-fresh produce in school salad bars, and continue an in-depth technical assistance project with a farm to school pilot in Kent School District, a large urban school district in Western Washington.

### **Walla Walla Public School #140**

*Walla Walla, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,000*

To bring the plentiful local produce into its school cafeterias, Walla Walla Public School District (WWPSD) will develop and strengthen partnerships and procurement processes of local products. Being a larger district in the region and serving as a mentor for nearby smaller districts, we'll be a pilot district for a state farm to institution geographic preference project and will host a regional mobile farm/ kitchen skills tour. To facilitate use of local produce, WWPSD will work with a local culinary institute to provide training and recipe development to its kitchen staff and welcomes neighboring districts. To encourage the consumption of the local fruits and vegetables coming into the cafeteria, the district farm to school program will provide experiential learning opportunities by adding two more school gardens and will provide 2 garden coordinators to work part-time in five school gardens. Garden coordinators will provide appropriate garden activities, assist in maintenance, help set garden objectives and work with teachers to develop curriculum that meets in class objectives. To create an understanding and appreciation for our local producers, we'll provide field trip and in class connections to local farms. Building healthy cooking habits will extend to students and their parents when WWPSD sponsors local chefs to demonstrate inspiring new recipes.

**Cheney Public Schools**

*Cheney, Washington*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,999*

The grant will hasten district progress toward a comprehensive reorganization of our nutrition program. While the district has taken modest steps, to date -- movement to a scratch cooking program and a Childhood Obesity Prevention initiative in partnership with the Empire Health Foundation (EHF) -- no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. This grant would complete the district's planning work by adding essential, missing elements and expanding the benefits to all students and buildings in the district.

2014

**Concrete School District**

*Concrete, Washington*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$40,000*

The Concrete School District farm to school planning project will serve 571 students at two schools in a rural school district in western Washington State. Free and reduced- priced meals are served to 61.5% of the student population.

**Olympia School District**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$76,700*

The vision of the GRuB School Expansion Project is to creatively increase farm- based leadership and learning opportunities for students of all ages while also increasing local food products available in all schools within the Olympia School District. Disengaged and low-income high school students from Olympia High School will participate in a summer employment training program and an academic year program earning credits in biology, American history, and horticulture. Students will apply learning to the management of two local farms – Muirhead Farm and the GRuB Farm. The 15 acre Muirhead Farm will grow organic vegetables and fruits specifically for the Olympia School District's lunch programs. Utilizing heated greenhouses and season extension technology, the farm will have the capacity to produce food year- round for district needs. We project that the farm will be able to produce 10,000 pounds of produce in year one. In three years, the farm will have the capacity to produce 25,000 pounds. The farm will also serve as an outdoor educational space for students and families from Centennial Elementary. The GRuB Farm will produce food for a neighborhood market and provide farm- based field-trips for 500+ elementary and middle school students from the Olympia School District.

2015

**Washington State Department of Agriculture**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,970*

Washington State Department of Agriculture will work with partners to host the first statewide farm to school conference in spring 2015. The one and a half day event will build on the momentum of successful farm to school efforts and aim to initiate and reinvigorate buyer, seller, distributor, processor, and community partner relationships. Our shared questions are now complex ones relating to the procurement process, food safety, food hubs and other supply chain solutions, and policies that support this work. The conference will explore these and other topics through workshops on multi- level policy efforts, cross- sector collaboration, procurement, nutrition standards, and food safety; celebration, showcases, and networking for farms, vendors, schools and community partners; supply chain panels with schools and their farm, processor, food hub and distributor partners; and working groups to discuss state- level research findings, identify opportunities and needs for processing, storage, aggregation and distribution, and to strengthen capacity and relationships.

### **Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network**

*Mount Vernon, Washington*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$88,444*

This project aims to increase local food procurement and access to local food by implementing a more regional and seasonal based Harvest of the Month program and by strengthening two regional farm to school networks in the Central and Northwest regions of Washington. The project will provide educational tools, professional development, networking opportunities, field trips, and technical training to enhance existing farm to school programs. The project will establish regional farm to school networks to support new partnerships with local farms and food hubs and increase procurement of local food in schools.

2016

### **Clark County Public Health**

*Vancouver, Washington*

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

The Clark County Public Health project will focus on increasing regionally sourced foods and expanding food system education opportunities for students in Vancouver Public Schools. Additionally, Washington State Extension staff will create a “blue print” for farm field trips on the county-owned 79- acre educational farm, known as the 78th Street Heritage Farm.

### **Concrete School District**

*Concrete, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$93,439*

The Concrete School District, previously a FY 2014 USDA Farm to School planning grantee, will offer a series of 12 culinary skill development classes in Skagit and Whatcom counties that will

teach kitchen staff to confidently cook food from scratch using fresh, local ingredients and increase the procurement and use of local produce.

### **Garden Raised Bounty**

Olympia, Washington

Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,775

Garden Raised Bounty will launch a farm and nutrition-based education program in the Tumwater School District; plan farm and nutrition-based education programs in the Eatonville School District; create standards-based curriculum frameworks and toolkits; increase the amount of local produce in summer programs; and provide peer support for emerging projects throughout Washington.

### **North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council**

Port Townsend, Washington

Grant Type: Support Service; \$72,000

The North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council will increase the amount of local, whole food served in the Port Townsend School District by upgrading equipment and facilities, training food service staff, and providing technical assistance to farmers to overcome barriers to institutional sales. The project will expand the school garden program, getting every elementary student in the district into the garden and learning to prepare and eat fresh, local food.

2017

### **Washington State Department of Agriculture**

Olympia, Washington

Grant Type: Support Service; \$96,625

Washington State Department of Agriculture will establish a statewide Washington Farm to School Network to provide a framework for communication and coordination among farm to school programs across the state. The Network will support new and existing farm to school programs by increasing access to support and collaboration as well as identify existing gaps in current resources and services.

2018

### **Foundation of District 304**

Sedro-Woolley, Washington

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

United General District 304, a public hospital district with non-profit status through its Foundation, will work with the Sedro-Woolley School District to scale farm to school operations in 11 schools serving 4,448 students in Washington State. United will build on early successes

in piloting Harvest of the Month in two elementary schools, and assist the school district in establishing business relationships with small Skagit County farms. United will (1) coordinate the development of a farm to school stakeholder team, (2) work with the food service director to develop cost-effective purchasing systems for three frequently used seasonal vegetables (3) improve the existing regional purchasing cooperative to ease local product sourcing for schools, (4) employ a consultant to conduct site visits to district kitchens and workshops for food service staff, (5) pilot a district-wide Harvest of the Month initiative, and (6) explore the feasibility of school gardens.

### **Lower Columbia School Gardens**

*Longview, Washington*

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

Lower Columbia School Gardens will support 18 existing school gardens and expand program offerings at two new schools within the Longview and Kelso school districts, Wallace Elementary and Mt. Solo Middle School. They will enhance the integration of garden programming and district curricula and increase family engagement. These gardens will be developed with the goal of improving the health and self-sufficiency of the children and families served. Once the new gardens are complete, LCSG will offer weekly after-school garden clubs, summer garden programs, garden recesses, and hands-on teaching and learning opportunities during the school day. Students at each of those schools will be able to participate in weekly school garden produce sales and other special events.

2019

### **The Sustainable Living Center**

*Walla Walla, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,500*

The Sustainable Living Center will collaborate with Walla Walla Valley Farm to School to expand its services in the greater Walla Walla region through strategic planning; doubling the number of active school gardens; increasing teacher and garden personnel (managers, school staff, volunteers) professional development opportunities; conducting community education and outreach through Food Focus events; hosting an annual Harvest Celebration fundraiser and working with school nutrition services directors to facilitate collaboration in purchasing and promotion of local food in school breakfasts, lunches and tasting opportunities, as well as highlighting the farmers producing the food.

2020

### **Chimacum School District 49**

*Chimacum, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,194*

Chimacum School District, in partnership with the nonprofit Community Wellness Project and the local food and farm community, will increase the number of pounds of fresh and local food

procured, prepared and served in school cafeterias. In addition, the project will increase school meal participation across the grades through outreach, marketing, and taste tests; increase agricultural education K-12 through school garden programs at the primary and elementary levels; enhance Food & Farm career & technical education programs at Junior/Senior High School; and develop a school food-waste composting program in partnership with a local farm. Students from kindergarten through graduation will benefit from increased access to fresh and local food; will develop knowledge, attitudes and behavior that form the basis for life-long healthy eating patterns; and will have meaningful opportunities to engage with the local food system.

### **Common Threads Farm**

*Bellingham, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,995*

Building on their successful model of hands-on support for school gardens, classroom cooking, and garden to cafeteria programs, Common Threads Farm will increase access to local food. The project will be enhancing existing farm to school partnerships at six rural schools and building new partnerships with four additional high need rural schools. In addition, the project will be working with district and school staff to increase understanding of and support for farm to school; and offering support to rural and high poverty communities across WA State via training, consultation and the recruitment, training and support of Food Educators. Key partners will include school district personnel in rural districts, OSPI office of Environmental and Sustainability Education, WSDA and WA State Farm to School Network, and the Whatcom County Health Department.

### **Coupeville School District**

*Coupeville, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,600*

The Coupeville School District intends to use the received funds to improve students' knowledge and access to locally grown foods. The project will affect the students of the Coupeville School District and key partners involved will include Coupeville Farm to School and the Connected Food Program. The project will (1) finish development of the Coupeville Farm Site, (2) incorporate experiential activities and participation in farm based activities, (3) hire a part time School Farm Manager to coordinate site production and educational activities, (4) develop district-wide plans and policies for local food purchase and use, and (5) participate in a Whidbey Island wide effort to form a food hub or cooperative to solve distribution bottlenecks of local produce.

### **Grow Food Dba Viva Farms**

*Burlington, Washington*

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

“Family Farms to Healthy Kids” is a Farm to School project led by Grow Food DBA Viva Farms with partners Washington State University Skagit Extension, Mt. Vernon School District, Skagit/Island Head Start, Washington Department of Agriculture and Dr. William Tracy, of the University of Wisconsin. The project will serve five counties in Washington State including Skagit, Island, San Juan Whatcom and Snohomish directly affecting over 7,221 children. The project will increase local procurement of unprocessed, local, fresh fruits and vegetables, and whole grains in schools through training, technical assistance and connecting farmers and school buyers; to engage students and teachers in experiential learning and educational activities related to agriculture, food and nutrition; and to conduct outreach to regional school leaders (administrators, principles, school board members) to increase understanding and compel high level support for Farm to School programming.

### **Northeast Washington Educational Service District 101**

*Spokane, Washington*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$41,205*

The Northeast Washington Educational Service District 101 (NEWESD 101) Child Nutrition Cooperative will assist rural school districts in Eastern Washington as they plan farm to school activities. The project will include establishing a supply chain that links regional farmers and ranchers to school districts, introducing seasonal menus that incorporate local food items, furthering agricultural education and introducing school garden projects. The Empire Health Foundation will support NEWESD 101, as both organizations further their goals of increasing whole foods and scratch cooking into school cafeterias and increasing student awareness of nutrition and agriculture. The cooperative includes 14 school districts serving, either geographically isolated or at-risk populations.

### **Okanogan Conservation District**

*Okanogan, Washington*

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

Okanogan Conservation District will collaborate with school districts, local organizations, and community members to implement and expand school gardens and improve local food procurement and agricultural education efforts in Okanogan County. Comprehensive school garden programs provide local food and educational opportunities to students and families. “Seeds to Sow, Kids to Grow” will achieve four outcomes: 1) hire a countywide Garden Educator to expand agricultural education in Okanogan County, 2) develop standards-based and STEM agricultural curriculum; 3) develop and implement sustainable garden programs in Okanogan County, and 4) expand local procurement efforts.

### **Washington State Department of Agriculture**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$98,709*

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and a team of trainers will develop and deliver three "scratch cooking & farm to school institutes" in Washington State for crossdisciplinary district teams. The institutes will consist of two-day intensive training and planning sessions followed by implementation support for each cohort for schools to implement scratch cooking programs. The project goals include increasing use of minimally processed, locally produced ingredients, traditional and culturally relevant menus, and increasing student participation in meal programs. WSDA and partners will facilitate activities and trainings to help institute participants develop strategies to increase scratch cooking and farm to school in their district, build partnerships with staff such as school gardeners, educators, and administrators, and facilitate ongoing expert and peer-to-peer support to implement their plans. The project will also produce video and print teaching tools on scratch production models for use beyond the institutes.

2021

**Child Care Action Council of Thurston County**

*Olympia, Washington*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$16,713*

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington State's prekindergarten program that prepares 3- and 4-year-old children furthest from opportunity for success in school and in life. CCAC ECEAP Edible Gardens Project will provide low-income children and families hands-on experience learning about and growing food, while increasing access to fresh produce, by incorporating gardening into the curriculum. Staff will engage children and families in all aspects of the project, as well as community members, such as the WSU Cooperative Extension, Pleasant Glade Elementary School and CCAC's Caring Kids Project, to help build a sustainable program.

**Foundation of District 304**

*Sedro Woolley, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,832*

Foundation of District 304 will collaborate with the Sedro-Woolley School District to implement a comprehensive Farm to School program serving 4,674 students at 12 schools in Skagit County, Washington. This project builds on a successful planning grant; strengthens partnerships with Boys and Girls Club and a local non-profit farm incubator; and aligns local procurement with agricultural education programming. District 304 will support the development of school gardens throughout the Sedro-Woolley School District; adapt STEM curriculum and conduct garden-based teacher trainings; and secure an AmeriCorps Garden Educator in Year 2. In addition, they will expand local procurement through Harvest of the Month at all schools; engage elementary students in developing social marketing strategies for a Smarter Lunchrooms campaign; and encourage older students to explore agricultural careers through farm field trips.

**Port Townsend School District #50**

*Port Townsend, Washington*



*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,428*

The Port Townsend School District Farm to School Program in collaboration with Washington State University Small Farms Program will improve edible school garden spaces across the district and support development and implementation of a PreK-9th grade agriculture education curriculum. The project will complete a school production garden at the elementary school and add infrastructure to the high school garden to support growing and harvesting of local produce for school meals. The agriculture curriculum will support students participating in production of food for school meals and increase their knowledge of local food systems and agriculture.

### **Snohomish Conservation District**

*Lake Stevens, Washington*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,822*

The Snohomish Conservation District is excited to partner with five CACFP preschool sites in Snohomish County to increase the amount of locally grown produce used in school meals. Some of this produce will be grown at newly expanded on-site gardens that include raised beds, perennials, composting, and watering systems and some will be sourced within the local farming community. In addition, the District and the WSU SNAP-Ed program will host lessons at the schools and cooking demonstrations for the community. This project will result in healthier school meals and teach both students and families how to better integrate nutritional foods into meal-planning.

### **Tilth Alliance**

*Seattle, Washington*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$47,366*

Tilth Alliance will work with families, teachers, and Solid Ground to work at a community level to redesign existing farm to table curriculum to better integrate with school classrooms. The farm to school curriculum will be implemented at SPS elementary schools, including Concord International Elementary, and focusing on Title 1 schools. The curriculum will be enhanced with field trips to Tilth Alliance's Rainier Beach Urban Farm or Children's Learning Gardens, or Solid Ground's Marra Farm. Classroom teachers at partnering schools will attend Garden Educator Workshops to support the uptake and sustainability of the farm to table curriculum they will implement with their classrooms. Through the Seattle School Learning Garden Network, Tilth Alliance and Seattle Public Schools Self Help Program will provide additional Garden Education Workshops to a broad coalition of teachers and community members, to lay the groundwork for sustainable farm to school programming.