

## Montana USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Lake County Community Development Corporation**

*Ronan, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,989*

The Mission Valley Farm to School Project will span one year and enable Lake County Community Development Corporation's Mission Mountain Food Enterprise and Cooperative Development Center (MMFECDC) to: implement an innovative procurement program through cooperative purchasing and processing strategies; launch a promotional campaign through networks and events that will promote farm to school program initiatives and that will highlight MMFECDC's center of the plate lentil patty; and, conduct project evaluation through a participatory process that will ensure long-term sustainability of the farm to school program. By implementing innovative procurement strategies the project stands to improve access to locally sourced foods in area school districts. Secondly, the project proposes to provide complimentary promotional materials that will enhance student knowledge of food, nutrition and agriculture and encourage healthy eating behaviors.

### **Ravalli School District #9**

*Darby, Montana*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$28,009*

Darby Schools will research the potential for a farm to school program in Darby in the future. Over the next year, we hope to build a workable, sustainable plan that can be used as an example for other small, rural schools across the state.

2014

### **Livingston School Districts 4 & 1**

*Livingston, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,001*

The major components of this proposal include an animal husbandry project that will involve students raising animals that will be processed and used in the school cafeterias; the expansion, development, and maintenance of school gardens at each school in the district; a remodel the interior of the existing greenhouse at Sleeping Giant Middle School to create the space for an aquaponics program that will be used to grow produce; the hiring of full-time Farmer Educator who will be responsible for farm to school instruction (during and after school), grounds keeping and maintenance of the gardens, preparation of food for use by the food service, and maintenance of relationships with farm to school supporters and local food producers; development of a detailed farm to school curriculum that will be shared with interested parties via the newly developed farm to school website; and, the purchase of kitchen equipment to alleviate burdens currently associated with processing local foods. These efforts

will allow the Livingston School Districts to provide more local and fresh protein and produce than ever before, while educating students about the importance of sustainable agriculture.

### **National Center for Appropriate Technology**

*Butte, Montana*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$96,705*

The “Regional Farm to School Pilot Project” is an initiative in which three school districts in south central Montana collaborate with the National Center for Appropriate Technology’s program, Farm to Cafeteria Network, to create an urban/rural model for farm to school. Participating schools will outline future goals in local food procurement and nutrition education as well as share resources and best practices for farm to school in their region. The project includes: the creation of a farm to school coordinating committee in each community that meets monthly and builds on collaboration; ongoing implementation of nutrition education and garden-based curriculum (with partner FoodCorps and participating teachers); technical assistance for districts’ food service professionals about preparing local foods to meet school nutrition guidelines (with partner Montana Team Nutrition); and an annual technical training for regional food producers interested in selling to schools (with partner Montana State University Extension). The farm to school outreach and education coordinator will compile and formalize educational materials as well as tips and lessons learned to enhance the program’s transferability to other regions in Montana.

2015

### **Inter- tribal Ag Council**

*Billings, Montana*

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

The Inter- tribal Agriculture Council will promote farm to school efforts in American Indian communities by including an expanded farm to school component as part of their annual membership meeting. This meeting draws hundreds of tribal food producers, agricultural professionals, and Native youth from across the nation. In addition to promoting enhanced understanding of farm to school programs and effective approaches for food service professionals, this event will allow targeted direct technical assistance and networking opportunities. An innovative multimedia youth project as part of the national event will engage high school students in the farm to school conversation and allow them to share their unique perspectives on food and agriculture with peers and food service professionals. Regional meetings will supplement this national event, allowing further opportunity for recruitment, outreach, and networking.

2016

### **Montana Office of Public Instruction**

*Helena, Montana*

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

The Montana Office of Public Instruction, through the Montana Team Nutrition Program, will host a Montana farm to school conference. The conference will provide training and partnership building sessions for the core elements of farm to school—procurement, school gardens, and education—for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 school programs and key stakeholders in Montana.

**National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)**

*Butte, Montana*

*Grant Type: Support Service - Volunteer Service Project, \$99,848*

NCAT's Healthy Foods and Communities Initiative is working to combat childhood obesity and reduce hunger, while supporting vibrant local farms and ranches. NCAT's Initiative encompasses multiple projects that work together to bring healthy, local foods to people across Arkansas, Mississippi, and Montana. This initiative combines FoodCorps/AmeriCorps service members, making change on the ground, with farm to school outreach and education activities.

2017

**Gallatin Valley Farm to School**

*Bozeman, Montana*

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

Gallatin Valley Farm to School will expand services to rural districts in the Bozeman, Montana region to implement the Montana Harvest of the Month program. Participating districts will receive support and training in procurement, marketing and outreach, school capacity development, and implementing farm to school education. Activities also include regional peer networking and supply chain development

2018

**Montana Department of Agriculture**

*Helena, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,980*

The Montana Department of Agriculture will increase the procurement and distribution of local food in K-12 schools in Montana. The Montana Farm to Leadership Team has identified three geographically significant schools that are in the early stages of implementing farm to school but have limited access to local foods. By coordinating with state-level farm to school partners, including supply-chain stakeholders, and bringing together local community teams in each of the target school communities, this project will create a plan that will impact the entire State.

2019

**Frenchtown School District**

*Frenchtown, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$89,320*

The Frenchtown School District will expand on an existing partnership with the Freedom Gardens, a nonprofit organization. Freedom Gardens has built an aquaponics greenhouse on the south campus of the school district. This program will establish a greenhouse manager to oversee this facility and create an opportunity to bring the produce to the school cafeterias more efficiently by creating additional storage capacity.

**Montana Office of Public Instruction**

*Helena, Montana*

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

Montana Office of Public Instruction with Montana Team Nutrition Program at Montana State University, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana FoodCorps, and other project partners will leverage building momentum and resources at a key time to expand farm to school support into more rural and remote communities, including native communities through the three project goals. First, the team will increase number of schools participating in farm to school by expanding capacity for technical assistance and training using a regional farm to school coach model. Second, by leveraging the regional model and partnerships, the team will facilitate information sharing, networking, and training opportunities by hosting four regional Montana farm to school Showcase events. Third, project partners will host a statewide Montana farm to school Summit.

**Park County Community Foundation**

*Livingston, Montana*

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

Farm to School of Park County, in collaboration with the Park County Community Foundation, will expand services to school districts in rural Park County, Montana. Participating districts will receive support and training in procurement, marketing and outreach, school capacity development, and implementing farm to school education, including implementation of the Montana Harvest of the Month Program. Activities also include regional peer networking and supply chain development.

2020

**Hardin Public School District 17 H & 1**

*Hardin, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$75,000*

Hardin Public School District 17H & 1 will expand farm to school efforts within Big Horn County by increasing access to and knowledge of local foods through the development of traditional foods curriculum. The farm to school program reflects a comprehensive approach to local procurement and agriculture education with integrated curriculum and the development of a high

tunnel and greenhouse on school grounds with hands-on apprenticeships for students to engage with local food systems.

### **Missoula County Public Schools**

*Missoula, Montana*

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

The Missoula County Public School's (MCPS) Agriculture Center and Meat Processing Facility will develop a school farm and meat processing facility management plan that will allow the Agriculture Center to increase the amount of local beef produced for the MCPS food service program. The Agriculture teachers will create a Farm to School Lunch advisory committee that will develop systems and procedures to increase farm and meat lab efficiency and identify key areas where curriculum could be infused into the management of the school farm and meatprocessing lab. All MCPS students will have the opportunity to participate in the production of the beef in their school lunches through a comprehensive 'conception to consumption' curriculum. A well-developed management plan will ensure the future sustainability and growth of the program."

### **Polson School District #23**

*Polson, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$55,495*

The project will develop a farm to school educator position in the Polson School District. This position will build upon the partnership established by the AmeriCorps FoodCorps program. This position is responsible for coordinating food related education with an emphasis on local food to benefit students. The farm to school educator will play a lead role working with students, parents, and school personnel.

2021

### **Boys & Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County**

*Ronan City, Montana*

*Grant Type: Turnkey-Edible Garden; \$46,875*

Boys & Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County proposes the implementation of edible gardens at the Polson and Ronan Clubhouses to address the food insecurity that plagues their reservation. The Turnkey Grant will enable the organization to implement sustainability efforts for their new Edible Garden project.

### **Farm Hands – Nourish the Flathead**

*Whitefish, Montana*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$61,742*

The Wildcat Farm to School Program is a project of Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead in partnership with Columbia Falls School District 6. The Wildcat Farm to School Program has a

three-tiered approach to comprehensive farm to school programming: agricultural education, an edible school garden classroom, and local procurement for Fresh Snack Fridays. All students in Columbia Falls School District 6 will benefit from this program. This program will focus year-round agricultural education on one elementary grade level including cooking, gardening, and nutrition. This program will ensure the continuity of the Wildcat School Garden and its use for growing fresh food and as an outdoor classroom. Finally, this program will expand local procurement of fruits and vegetables for all students in Columbia Falls School District 6.

**Montana Office of Public Instruction**

*Helena, Montana*

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

The Montana Office of Public Instruction with Montana Team Nutrition Program at Montana State University, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Organic Association, Montana State University Extension, Lake County Community Development Corporation, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and other project partners will work collaboratively to deepen farm to school reach and impact in Montana. The project aims to improve access to local foods in eligible schools through comprehensive programming that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts including: building strong farm to school teams within schools, growing agricultural producer capacity for working with schools, and connecting producers with schools