

West Virginia USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2015

West Virginia Department of Education

Charleston, West Virginia

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition and the West Virginia Farm to School Community Development Group believe that creating and maintaining vibrant local food systems require sufficient infrastructure to more effectively move food from farms to school cafeterias. The development of regional food hubs is essential both to eliminate the barriers expressed by county food service directors and provide the distribution infrastructure necessary for small and mid- size farmers to respond to the growing demand for local food. These regional hubs would establish economies of scales that allow schools to purchase local products at an affordable cost, while at the same time maintaining a profit margin for the local farmer.

2016

West Virginia Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition

Charleston, West Virginia

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

The West Virginia Department of Education will host a Junior Cast Iron–Cook Off and a state-wide farm to school conference. The Junior Cast Iron Cook Off will include teams from across the state demonstrating culinary knowledge, skills, and creative abilities while featuring local ingredients. The first annual West Virginia Farm to School Conference will host National School Lunch sponsors, Summer Food Service Program sponsors, Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsors, farmers, teachers, and interested community members. Training topics include an overview of procurement policies and processes, incorporation of garden based learning into classroom curriculum, and networking opportunities for farmers and food service directors.

2018

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Charleston, West Virginia

Grant Type: Implementation; \$69,285

West Virginia Department of Agriculture will implement "Developing a Farm to School Strategic Plan for WV", a program that promotes economic growth by connecting supply and demand of local foods while ensuring food safety. This program will increase the availability of local foods to schools statewide and enhance existing partnerships in West Virginia.

2019

Reconnecting McDowell

Charleston, West Virginia

*Grant Type: Implementation; * (award amount not yet finalized)*

Reconnecting McDowell, along with the McDowell County Board of Education and various community partners, will implement a Farm to School plan which will address food security issues amongst the student population of McDowell and increases consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables. This will be accomplished by working to streamline the process of local food purchases for the McDowell County School System with a single drop-off point for processing, educating and empowering students to participate in the process, and work to engage the community in support for local food programs.

2020

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Charleston, West Virginia

Grant Type: State Agency; \$99,997

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the West Virginia Farm to School Community Development Group (WVFTSCDG) and West Virginia Department of Education, will improve access to local foods in eligible schools by implementing or expanding a comprehensive farm to school program that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts. The five activities identified include local procurement and agricultural education efforts: (1) Hire a Farm to School Coordinator, (2) Reconvene the WVFTSCDG, (3) Develop Standard Operating Procedures, (4) Identify highly motivated counties to implement F2S, and (5) Develop a statewide marketing campaign.

2021

West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, Inc.

Charleston, West Virginia

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,307

Nurturing Farm to School will utilize teachers, nonprofits, FFA, local farms, and community members to work with schools in three school districts across three counties in West Virginia, Doddridge, Kanawha, and Randolph, to engage youth in six components of a farm to school program including: creating school gardens, marketing through local campaigns, youth entrepreneurship, aggregation of locally grown produce, nutrition education, and policy education. Utilizing all six components of farm to school will help create programs within county school districts that are sustainably robust, educational, and will incorporate locally sourced farm products in school cafeterias.