

## Oklahoma USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services**

*Ada, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,994*

The Chickasaw Nation Farm to School Project is an important step toward improving the economic stability of small farmers and the long-term health of children in Oklahoma school systems. Benefits of the program include schools providing children fresh, tasty, nutritious produce, while small farmers acquire new markets. The proposed project will span two years with a goal of expanding the number of growers providing foods to the three partner schools within the Chickasaw Nation as well as to increase the variety and selection of locally-grown foods served in the three partner schools. Grant funds will enable the Chickasaw Nation to provide training and networking opportunities for school food service directors, provide culinary training to food service staff within the three partner schools, establish networking and training opportunities for growers and provide nutrition education opportunities in the classrooms of the three partner schools.

2014

### **Osage Hills Public Schools**

*Bartlesville, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,847*

Osage Hills Public School will work with eleven school districts to benefit 4,993 students in rural northeastern Oklahoma where an average of 71% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and an average of 43% are Native American. Each district is a member of Osage County Interlocal Cooperative, which will be contracted with to manage the farm to school grant. A previous grant awarded to all 12 districts has promoted healthy eating and nutrition education, as well as provided minimal training for cafeteria managers through farm to school area representatives. Funding from the USDA Farm to School Grant will allow our district to initiate a program to incorporate healthy foods into the school breakfast, lunch, and after school programs.

### **Pryor Public Schools**

*Pryor, Oklahoma*

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

The "Fuel Your Body" project will plan a comprehensive farm to school program at all five Pryor Public Schools' sites, serving 2,600 students in grades K- 12. Funding will support farm to school planning meetings and workshops, conduct inventories of all facilities, create farm to school farm/produce partnerships, complete an assessment with the farm to school evaluation toolkit, and create a plan for sustainability. Partners include the Extension Service, the

Cherokee Nation, the State Farm to School Program, Shanks Farm, and others. Upon completion of the planning period, Pryor Public Schools will have the infrastructure, capacity, and tools to fully integrate a farm to school initiative in the district.

2015

**Stilwell Public Schools**

*Stilwell, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$41,535*

Stilwell Public Schools (SPS) serves 1,460 high- need students living in and around Stilwell, Oklahoma, “The Most Cherokee Community in the USA.” A comprehensive farm to school program has long been on the radar of district- wide improvement, and the foundation has been laid. SPS updated the school meal program in 2012, contracting with Sodexo Food Services to ensure federal nutritional guidelines are reliably met. By formalizing the meal- creation process, this re- vamped structure will facilitate the ongoing incorporation of local produce; providing opportunities for Stilwell’s farms to deliver a wide- variety of vegetables and fruits that can be incorporated monthly into school meals.

2017

**Stilwell Public Schools**

*Stilwell, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$90,950*

With funds from the Farm to School Grant program, Stilwell High School will update their greenhouse, including the industrial refrigerator which stores the harvest. Stilwell Public Schools prioritizes the ongoing strengthening and expansion of the network of community partners to stimulate and promote revitalization efforts and continues to leverage local stakeholders to improve the health and wellness of families.

**Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry**

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Training; \$17,764*

“OKC Students Learn to Eat Local” involves increasing students’ knowledge and understanding of where local food comes and how to make better food choices when it comes to their health with in-class education, farmer’s market field trips, interactions with local growers, and hands-on learning experiences at the farm.

**Comanche Public Schools**

*Comanche, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$32,252*

Comanche Public Schools (CPS) will enhance their Cooking for Kids training and scratch-cooking program and move forward in organizing and structuring a comprehensive farm to school program that will benefit all students and impact their entire community.

2018

**Cherokee Nation**

*Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$49,318*

Cherokee Nation Sequoyah High School will develop an action plan to increase access to farm-fresh, traditional foods, and experiential food education to tribal students.

**Oklahoma City Public School District**

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$42,500*

Oklahoma City Public School District will encourage and educate students to make local food choices that infuse a culture of wellness among students, parents, and staff. The project will increase access to local food choices and provide learning opportunities for students on nutrition, agriculture, and food. This is a highly collaborative project, bringing together producers, schools, and community agencies to create positive change.

**Muscogee (Creek) Nation**

*Okmulgee, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$29,466*

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Henrietta Public Schools will create a native inclusive agricultural curriculum, while simultaneously compiling a Farm to School Action Plan to address nutritional opportunities for students.

2019

**The Chickasaw Nation**

*Ada, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,347*

This grant project will support the expansion of existing farm to school activities to improve locally grown fruits and vegetables served in meals that are provided to students at the Chickasaw Nation Head Starts, Early Childhood Center, Ada Public Schools and Byng Public Schools. Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services will focus on expanding classroom education to include monthly lessons focused on agriculture concepts, providing increased exposure to fruits and vegetables through taste testing and inclusion of a cultural language component.

**Earth Rebirth**

*Norman, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$55,855*

Earth Rebirth will build a school garden network in Norman, OK. This garden will feature a garden networking app that allows teachers and classes to strive for garden projects that are profitable.

### **Healthy Schools Oklahoma**

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

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

Growing up Healthy will provide students with on-site growing opportunities, education on the importance of eating fresh, healthy foods and hands-on tasting parties. HSOK will also include a community/parent component. The Growing up Healthy project will reach approximately 50 schools across the state of Oklahoma, impacting nearly 25,000 students K-6 students. Key partners include participating schools and districts, Oklahoma County Medical Society and the Oklahoma Farm to You program.

### **Howe Public Schools**

*Howe, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$94,321*

Howe Public Schools will collaborate with two local farms, in addition to boosting production from existing school gardens, to increase the use of fresh fruits and vegetables in the school lunch program and educate students about health and nutrition. The school system will utilize an already operating farm truck, scheduling routine produce deliveries throughout the school year in addition to the cultivation of the existing 11-acre school garden site. Students will be trained on school garden farming equipment to improve the garden's annual yield. These changes, combined with improved kitchen processing space and an enhanced outdoor learning center, will enable a more robust and sustainable farm to school program.

### **Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma**

*Miami, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$49,875*

The Modoc Nation (Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma) will develop a partnership with Miami Public Schools to facilitate planning the introduction and regular consumption of locally raised bison meat into the student lunch program.

### **Porter Consolidated School District**

*Porter, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$33,905*

Porter School District's "Cultivating a Farm to School Program" will partner with Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Culinary Arts, Wagoner County

Oklahoma State University Extension Office, Hunger Free Oklahoma, Wagoner County Health Department, USDA Farm to School/Ag in the Classroom, 4H/Youth Development Horticulture & Landscape Arch., and a Farm to School Coach to develop a broad plan. This plan will bring local or regionally produced foods into the school cafeteria; provide hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary nutrition classes; integrate food-related education into the regular, standards-based classroom curriculum to prepare students for careers in agriculture.

**Quapaw tribe of Oklahoma**

*Quapaw, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$49,910*

The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the Quapaw Public School District will undergo an innovative Farm to School Planning Project. Planning will consist of; organizing a Farm to School Organizing Committee to develop and implement a needs assessment tool to assess the community's need and readiness for development of a farm to school program; utilizing Quapaw High School to lead and present research projects to identify obstacles, resource gaps, and potential strategies to overcome barriers to launching farm to school activities; and compiling and analyzing the results of the data collection to complete a Farm to School Action Plan using USDA's Farm to School Planning Toolkit.

**Tahlequah Public Schools**

*Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$49,950*

Tahlequah Public Schools (TPS) will work in the three elementary schools around gardens, nutrition curriculum and a successful onsite farmers markets. School procurement of locally grown foods will also be assessed. TPS will work with its main partners, the OSU Extension Office, Tahlequah Farmer's Market, Cherokee Nation Healthy Nation and the Cherokee County Health Services Council TSET Healthy Living Program.

2020

**Oklahoma State Department of Education**

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$99,054*

The Oklahoma State Department of Education, in partnership with Oklahoma State University, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, and the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, is applying for funds to create the Fresh Resources to Enhance Student Health (FRESH) project. The project will be a multi-agency effort aimed at changing the paradigm of school nutrition in Oklahoma. The project will include farmer education, training, child nutrition staff culinary skill development, and culinary management training. Nine school districts will also receive school-site chef consultations to include nutrition staff on-site training as well as hands-on cooking experiences for students. The project will also increase the online promotion

of the Farm to School Program, and develop and host spring Farmer's Showcases to promote the fresh, local produce used in school lunches.

#### **Panola School District 4**

*Panola, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,874*

Flow N Grow will provide the capital needed to expand Panola Agriculture Program with a Greenhouse and Aquaponics systems. This will establish the foundation required to increase local producer engagement via community events held onsite. New Community liaison will leverage membership and partner associations for introductions to new producers. Ultimately, through taste testing, healthy food distribution and education Panola will increase access to healthy foods and decrease food insecurity.

#### **Union Public Schools**

*Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,836*

Union Public Schools (UPS) will grow a more robust and sustainable Farm to School Program that will ultimately serve as a model program. Increased local food purchasing will occur by increasing the number and variety of farmers. A consulting farmer, and partners, Oklahoma State University and State Farm to School, will provide technical support for other farmers interested in pursuing farm to school by providing best practices, training, and networking activities for farmers. UPS will encourage more school districts to purchase local foods by using the UPS local co-op bid. Connecting students to agriculture will occur by providing a supervised district greenhouse, along with the consulting farmer, for experiential STEM and botany learning opportunities for High School and Alternative Education students. Career Connect students will have the opportunity to work at the consultant's farm and greenhouse.

2021

#### **Osage Nation**

*Pawhuska, Oklahoma*

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

The Osage Nation's Bird Creek Farm will develop a farm to school action plan to increase local food procurement at the Wah Zha Zhi Early Learning Academies. The Wah Zha Zhi Early Learning Academies (WELAs) are located in four towns across rural Osage County, Oklahoma, serving children who range from 6 weeks to 12 years old. The WELAs are an entity of the Osage Nation, a Federally-recognized Indian Tribal Organization. As such, 93% of students are American Indian, nearly 30% qualify for free/reduced lunches, and 62% qualify for Child Care Development Fund assistance.

#### **Tahlequah Public Schools**

*Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,000*

Tahlequah Public Schools will provide aeroponic gardens at 5 sites within the district. Using these gardens, Tahlequah Public Schools will partner with the Tahlequah Farmers' Market to provide nutrition education as well as on site Farmers' Markets to each of the 3 elementary school sites.