

Rhode Island USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2014

Farm Fresh Rhode Island

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Grant Type: Support Service; \$91,917

With funding from the USDA Farm to School Program, Farm Fresh Rhode Island's Farm to School Project will pilot the use of fresh- frozen local produce in public school districts. The farm to school project will enact this pilot in partnership with the Central Falls, Newport and Providence School Districts, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Training School, where the blast freezing program will be located. This farm to school value chain will be supported by educational activities including classroom, cafeteria and farm- based programs, that relate to the local farms and products.

2017

Rhode Island Department of Education

Providence, Rhode Island

Grant Type: Support Service; \$90,190

The Rhode Island Department of Education will implement proven farm to school programs in school based pre-K CACFP sites and CACFP after school programs. Hands-on, interactive, nutrition education programs will be presented in five schools in four school districts. Food service providers will receive technical assistance on how to incorporate nutrition education into the schools' culture and support food service in procuring and promoting local products.

2018

City of Providence

Providence, Rhode Island

Grant Type: Planning; \$49,766

The City of Providence will develop new and innovative local food initiatives by maximizing local purchasing and enriching school greenhouse and garden curricula at additional schools. Additionally, the City of Providence will revise the district's Wellness Policy by working with Sodexo, to explore local procurement options and create a strategic plan to establish a cohesive connection between Providence Public School District classrooms, cafeterias, and the local community.

2019

Farm Fresh Rhode Island

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Grant: Implementation; \$52,181

Farm Fresh Rhode Island will leverage Rhode Island's strong history of farm to school activities to research, create and pilot a farm to school curriculum that conforms to core classroom standards, engages all school stakeholder groups: students, teachers, parents, administrators and food service directors.

2020

Rhode Island Department of Education

Providence, Rhode Island

Grant Type: State Agency; \$96,236

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is a member of the recently created RI Farm to School Coalition, which is a joint initiative of RIDE, the RI Dept. Environmental Management, the RI Healthy Schools Coalition, RI's Director of Food Strategy, and Farm Fresh RI, created to provide guidance to and oversight of RI's farm to school activities. If awarded funding, RIDE will collaborate with these key partners to develop a cohesive strategy that will unify the various farm to school activities across the state. Specific activities will include development of a RI farm to school brand, including the development of templates and other resources to be used by stakeholders throughout RI's child nutrition programs and which will be housed on a revitalized, central, RI farm to school website. Additional activities will include surveying of key stakeholders to develop and provide training and technical assistance workshops aimed to improve access to local foods in CNPs.

Smithfield Public Schools

Smithfield, Rhode Island

Grant Type: Implementation; \$65,530

Smithfield Public Schools will expand its partnership with neighboring farms in order to improve knowledge and practice of good nutrition among students and families, increase the amount of local produce utilized in school nutrition program, and improve breakfast options and participation by incorporating local, fresh produce.

2021

The Highlander Charter School

Providence, Rhode Island

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$21,548

Highlander Charter School, in partnership with Southside Community Land Trust, We Share Hope, and Johnson and Wales University will develop a comprehensive plan for a Farm to School Program at the school. When the plan is complete, it will provide a roadmap for a School to Garden program that will impact underserved students and families by growing local produce, including students in all aspects of farming and the business and science around it, and sharing the bounty with families in need and community organizations.