

Massachusetts USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation

Marlborough, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Massachusetts Farm to School Project (MFTSP) was founded in 2004 as a grassroots initiative to increase consumption of locally grown foods in schools for the good of our children, our farms, and our communities. Operating under the fiscal sponsorship of the 501c3 Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Corporation, MFTSP facilitates local foods procurement in schools, conducts research and documentation projects to support farm to school sales, engages in regional food systems planning, and coordinates food, agriculture and nutrition education programming in schools. The proposed project will span 18 months and will support facilitation and evaluation of farm to school innovations in three low-income districts, the creation of a statewide Farm to School Network to share best practices and promote learning opportunities, improved communication with child nutrition program administrators, culinary leadership training for school food service professionals and food processing innovations to make local foods available in schools year round. Successful project implementation will link local foods procurement with the efforts of food, farm, and nutrition educators and advocates to embed a diversity of farm to school activities in the public school environment.

Boston Public Schools

Boston, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Boston Public Schools (BPS) intends to expand student and community engagement through farm field trips, experiential learning opportunities, and community dinners, and also build cafeteria staff capacity through culinary training. The BPS Farm to School Initiative currently procures locally grown produce for all 44 full-service cafeteria schools across the district and serves over 25,000 students weekly through our Local Lunch Thursday Program. We are currently seeking to expand our local purchasing to our satellite sites.

Ezra. H. Baker Elementary School

West Dennis, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$29,896

The goal of the Ezra H. Baker “Three Sisters Project” is to reconnect our students to the rich agricultural heritage on Cape Cod, both past and present through multi-disciplinary, experiential activities and curriculum. To help our students make healthier nutrition choices, we will provide students daily access to a variety of fresh, locally harvested agricultural products – introducing students to the vibrant farm movement on Cape Cod.

2014

Somerville Public Schools

Somerville, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

Somerville Public Schools will implement a grant to benefit nearly 5,000 students in a richly diverse community. Somerville is a dense urban city adjacent to Boston, with a population of 75,754 residents packed into 4.1 square miles. Somerville is thirteenth largest city in Massachusetts and one of the most economically, culturally, and linguistically diverse, bringing together recent immigrants from all over the world and generations of families who have made Somerville their home for decades. 69.2% of Somerville Public Schools students qualify for free or reduced lunch and more than half (51.1%) list a first language other than English. This planning grant would allow Somerville Public Schools and partners to strategically align, implement new programs and expand existing farm to school efforts, conduct a needs assessment and menu audit to determine next steps in developing a districtwide farm to school plan, identify local food vendors and products that can be introduced into school menus, and develop a comprehensive long- term strategy that supports local sourcing and brings the community together in promoting farm to school efforts as a way of life.

Springfield Public Schools

Springfield, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,998

Our farm to school enhancement project seeks to increase Springfield Public School students' access to and understanding of the need for nutritious foods. The first part of the project will focus on increasing purchase of fresh, regionally grown, minimally processed produce for students' consumption from the current 12% to 20% of total annual food costs. The second part of the project will enhance the agricultural education framework and provide for increased experiential learning opportunities to create more informed and healthier future consumers, with an increase in the number of students impacted from the current 1.4% to 60.6%. These projects combined with the implementation of evaluation measurement tools and a Springfield Public School community wellness fair will serve to create a more cohesive farm to school program.

2015

Northeast Regional Steering Committee, Franklin County Community Development Corp.

Greenfield, Massachusetts

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

The Northeast Regional Steering Committee of the National Farm to School Network, in partnership with Farm to Institution New England and Farm to Institution New York State, will be hosting a Northeast Farm to School Leadership Summit in April 2015. The summit is an integral part of the 2015 Northeast Farm to Institution Conference, which will include colleges and hospitals as well as K- 12 schools. The goal of the summit is to improve access of local foods in regional schools. The agenda will emphasize the importance of developing supply chain

relationships through information sharing, networking, and professional development opportunities; include programming to connect schools with farmers, food processors, and manufacturers to serve regionally procured foods in school cafeterias; and include workshops and networking opportunities addressing needs for food, agriculture and nutrition- based standards- based curriculums and hands- on experiential activities.

Lowell Public Schools

Lowell, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

This project seeks to coordinate components of a farm to school program by providing staff to coordinate the project, promoting farm to school with students and the community, and developing a Farm to School Task Force. Three school gardens will be built at high- needs elementary schools. Farm to school partnerships for middle school students will be increased to include 1,000 students visiting local farms and ten Farm to Table Healthy Eating and Cooking Workshops for 100 children and their families. The project will implement a “locally grown” food station at Lowell High School, which serves more than 3,000 students per year. Funds will be used for curriculum alignment to maximize classroom experiences with farm to school concepts as well as the development of 26 farm to school classroom toolkits. Project partnerships include Mill City Grows, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering food justice in Lowell. A second key partner is Project LEARN, a nonprofit that acts in a consultative fashion to build supplemental revenue and implement community relations for Lowell Public Schools.

2016

Massachusetts Farm to School, Project Bread – The Walk for Hunger

Amherst, Massachusetts

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

The Massachusetts Farm to School conference will provide a forum for individuals working in a variety of roles in the farm to school movement to come together across disciplines to learn best practices, network, and advance farm to school efforts in Massachusetts. The goal of the training is to promote effective procurement, menuing, and promotion of locally grown foods in school year and summer food service meal programs.

Quincy Public Schools

Quincy, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$71,958

Quincy Public Schools will expand and strengthen the existing farm to school program to increase the amount of local fruits and vegetables available in school cafeterias, embed farm to school nutrition-based experiential activities into the curriculum district-wide, promote economic development for local farmers and providers, and provide students with healthy, locally-grown food.

Somerville Public Schools

Somerville, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Building on the momentum of a 2014 USDA Farm to School planning grant, Somerville Public Schools will ramp up the alignment, implementation, and expansion of programs to increase the use of local food products in school menus and increase the use of nutrition education in prekindergarten classrooms. Additionally, the project will result in the development of a Somerville School Garden Network, a Massachusetts Farm to School Stakeholder Network, local procurement bid templates, and memorandums of understanding to deepen community partnerships.

The Open Door

Gloucester, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

This community collaboration of local nonprofits and a public school district will increase student access to fresh fruits and vegetables through the National School Lunch Program, summer meals, preschool, and after school suppers through salad bars, taste tests, nutrition education, school gardens, and local produce acquisition.

2017

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Malden, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,812

Massachusetts, Growing Great Summer Meals (Mass GGSM) will assess and support the implementation of current and future participation in farm to summer by school based sponsors in Massachusetts. Mass GGSM will add an assessment tool to the online renewal application to identify participation types and rates. State specific training videos will be developed to train administrative and site staff on procurement, utilization, and education using local or regional foods. Once Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors have learned about ways to implement farm to summer in Massachusetts, mini-grant funds will be provided to support implementation.

Codman Academy Charter Public School

Dorchester, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$29,153

Codman Academy Charter Public School (CACPS) goal is to (1) develop a sustainable farm to school program that will serve fresh and nutritious food, (2) maximize the use of locally grown or produced foods, (3) educate students about healthy eating habits, including hands-on techniques to make the connections between farming and the food that students consume, (4) connect students to local farms for vocational training and internships, (5) increase the size and

stability of farmers' direct sales market, and (6) increase school meal participation by increasing the selection and quality of food available for students.

2018

Amherst Public Schools

Amherst, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$30,600

Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools (ARPS) will organize community stakeholders and build three teams to focus on 1) business planning and operations, 2) seasonal and local menu design, and 3) food and nutrition education that occurs in the cafeterias, classrooms, and in school gardens. Teams will develop and test strategies for a well-coordinated value-based food supply chain that connects students directly with their food sources. The planning process will yield a district-wide vision statement and a complete business plan rooted in the three ARPS food service team objectives.

Wildfish LLC dba/ Red's Best

Boston, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Wildfish LLC/Red's Best will teach students about the local bounty of fresh fish in the Northwest Atlantic waters with goals of collaborating with new partners and boosting the consumption of local seafood in public schools and beyond.

2019

Green City Growers, LLC

Somerville, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The program, which is a collaboration between the Boston Public Schools, Friends of the Boston Schoolyard, Green City Growers, and the BPS STRIVE program, will provide direct engagement for up to 60 BPS STRIVE special needs students, along with approximately 500 elementary school aged students at four schools where garden beds and vegetable gardening programs will be implemented. By integrating science, outdoor education, job training, and nutrition education, the project will be addressing issues surrounding childhood and young adult nutrition in tandem with making lifetime changes to participant's habits by engaging them in the process of growing their own food. By using underutilized outdoor classroom spaces for both science and nutrition education, we can harness this increased enthusiasm to engage students in garden activities that will provide them with skills to eat healthier and get outdoors more often, increasing their opportunities for exercise.

Grow Food Northampton, Inc.

Florence, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$56,660

Grow Food Northampton and the Northampton Public Schools will develop a model Farm to School program that integrates all key aspects of Farm to School in a unified partnership. Building on existing strengths in school gardens, farm-based education, and nutrition education, Grow Food Northampton will enhance current programming, expand local procurement, and integrate and promote all efforts to strengthen their impact. Elementary students will receive Farm to School content through school gardens, farm visits, and classroom nutrition and cooking workshops for a combined 12 experiences per year for K-3 and 7 experiences per year for grades 4-5. All students will be exposed to vastly increased menu items prepared from scratch using local foods, with cross-promotion of ingredients and recipes between cafeteria and classroom.

South Shore YMCA

Norwell, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$92,778

The South Shore YMCA and Friends of Holly Hill Farm will design and execute year-round farm-to-school programming, including basic gardening skills development, nutrition education, the creation or expansion of school gardens at nine schools, capacity expanding professional development for teachers and more for the Weymouth Public Schools. Programs will take place at the schools during the school day, in after school settings, on field trips during the school year to Holly Hill Farm and during the summer at both the WeyCare day camp and the SSYMCA's Hanover Family Farm.

Springfield Public Schools

Springfield, Massachusetts

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

The Springfield Public Schools (SPS) Farm to School Project will be used to install between five to seven new school gardens in the district, thereby providing half of the public schools in the Springfield Public School System access to a teaching garden. In addition to these gardens, SPS will develop and run education workshops on nutrition and food policy and the recruitment of parents to run additional workshops and activities. All data relevant to this work will be collected and reviewed by a professional evaluator to determine the initial impact of this program on SPS child nutrition programs.

2020

Ascentria Community Services, SNAP-education Program

Worcester, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$37,334

Ascentria Community Service, Inc.'s (Ascentria) SNAP-Education Program (SNAP-Ed), in collaboration with West Springfield Public Schools (WSPS) will develop a comprehensive action plan to expand farm to school initiatives for three piloting school sites. Ascentria's SNAP-Ed

staff will work with WSPS and community stakeholders to establish a farm to school leadership committee that will oversee this project and determine best practices for developing a sustainable farm to school program. Strategies to be incorporated into the resulting action plan will aim to increase student engagement in nutrition and school garden-based learning opportunities, develop a school compost and food-waste reduction pilot program, and increase the availability of locally grown foods in school cafeterias.

Codman Square Health Center

Dorchester, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,883

Codman Academy Charter Public School will enhance, expand and deepen the Farm to School planning efforts for a replicable, sustainable and impactful nutritious food service program. The project will also be socially just, environmentally and financially sustainable, increase local procurement efforts and agricultural education implementation for students. The project will also include agriculture lessons, garden building, and connection with the local and regional food producers. By structuring the program with current and existing vendors and partners and approaching it by school semester, the project plan to continually increase the procurement efforts in the kitchen and maintain the indoor and outdoor school gardens throughout the season, with professional guidance and supervision. With established co-located partners including the Codman Square Health Center, Daily Table grocery store and Green City Growers, Holly Hill Farm, Urban Farming Institute and Oasis on Ballou, the project will strengthen the network of support for the program.

Regional Environmental Council, Inc.

Worcester, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,656

The Regional Environmental Council will support agricultural education efforts at North High School, Vernon Street School, and May Street School. Working with three Worcester public schools and three identified, committed, and geographically proximate community partner organizations, REC will 1) Develop a replicable partnership model which will increase the sustainability of existing school gardens by creating structured programs for summer maintenance, 2) Increase student exposure to farm activities and build student/parent knowledge of local food resources through field trips to local urban farm sites and visits from the Mobile Farmers Market, and 3) Expand experiential learning opportunities by working in collaboration with teachers, administrators, and parents to develop and implement grade level specific integrated curriculum for each school site to ensure sustainable long term integration of the school garden into the culture of the school.

Somerville Public Schools

Somerville, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Somerville Public Schools (SPS) Food Service Department works diligently to provide good food inspiration and education so that Somerville's youth can eat well all day long - both in school and at home. SPS will ultimately benefit nearly 5,000 students in a richly diverse community. The project will continue building the Farm to School system. In addition, the project will create a Farm to School Planning team to create an action plan. The planning team will include district and department staff member from communications, wellness and food service departments and member of key partner organizations, such as Shape Up Somerville, Groundwork Somerville, and Drumlin Farms.

Third Sector New England

Boston, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$71,941

Massachusetts Farm to School will work with the MA Department of Agricultural Resources to increase local foods sourcing and education at schools by establishing a Commonwealth Quality School Garden Food Safety program and conducting trainings for school personnel. Additionally, the project will work with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project to train new farmers and utilize their existing food hub to grow, aggregate and deliver produce to schools in Northeastern Massachusetts.

2021

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District

Hathorne, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$50,000

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School, Hathorne, MA will partner with the Salem Public Schools and Tufts University to use the turnkey grant process to establish goals, objectives, and initiatives that will allow for the establishment of a collaborative farm to school initiative. This will allow the districts to solidify the initiatives already in place, expand upon these initiatives to create a more well-rounded and sustainable program, and identify initiatives that the schools can collaborate on to provide students with opportunities to work together. The work the farm to school team will engage in will allow for the creation of a plan that builds upon current successes, establishment of new initiatives to enhance student learning and experiences, and development of partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability of the farm to school initiative.

Hampden Hampshire Conservation District

Hadley, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$34,384

The Hampden Hampshire Conservation District (HHCD) will develop and implement an interdisciplinary Agricultural Education curriculum guided by farm to school principles. The curriculum will be multifaceted including: In class units, on the farm work and learning, and creating an on-site learning garden. This program will initially impact 500 students at Baystate

Academy Public Charter School (BACPS) an Expeditionary Learning School, and the curriculum will be made available to other schools in Hampden and Hampshire counties (potentially reaching tens of thousands of students). HHCD's key partners will be BACPS, the Western MA Food Bank Farm as well as yet to be determined local organizations and farmers. As an agricultural focused local organization, HHCD has deep ties in the agricultural community providing a wealth of knowledge and opportunities for curriculum enrichment.

Lowell Public Schools

Lowell, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,925

Bringing Lowellians Local will leverage Lowell's ethnic diversity, agricultural partners, school curriculum and culinary creativity to increase access to local food consumed in school cafeterias, classrooms, and the community. Curriculum development is focused on enacting a permanent addition of agricultural lessons into all middle schools across the district. By mapping these agricultural lessons to the core curriculum standards as designed by middle school teachers, they will ensure a relevant and accessible curriculum that will also support cafeteria and community engagement.

Marion Institute

Marion, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,237

The Marion Institute will develop the Grow Education farm to school curriculum, including curriculum development and teacher training. In addition, this project will expand a comprehensive Farm to School Program across the New Bedford Public School District, providing 3rd graders with hands-on, agricultural education and school meals featuring locally grown foods to more than 14,000 students.

South Shore YMCA

Quincy, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$49,854

The South Shore YMCA, Friends of Holly Hill Farm, and Weymouth Public Schools will embed school garden education curriculum in eight elementary schools by designing edible gardens for use by all Weymouth elementary school students.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

Hatfield, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$66,924

The Food Bank and Food Bank Farm's experience is to provide fresh produce and nutrition education to its community partners and individuals at risk of hunger. The Food Bank's Farm to School Expansion project seeks to increase fresh produce served and distributed as well as

farm and nutrition education opportunities for students in the Holyoke and Springfield Public Schools.

Third Sector New England

Boston, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,303

The Growing Strong and Equitable Farm to ECE Programs in New England Project will improve access to local foods for New England children who are enrolled in early childhood education (ECE) programs operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Over two years, the project will: 1. Support, connect, and amplify the voices of ECE practitioners by creating and coordinating a New England Farm to ECE Community of Practice (COP). 2. Conduct an Ecosystem Assessment of Farm to ECE opportunities, barriers, and inequities to fuel the work of the New England Farm to ECE COP. And 3. Provide professional development training paired with implementation mini-grants for ECE practitioners in the six-state region. This three-pronged approach will enable ECE practitioners in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), to provide more Farm to School programming that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts.

Webster Public Schools

Webster, Massachusetts

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$27,819

Webster Fresh: Expanding Farm to School in the Webster Public Schools will develop a strategic approach to expanding the existing Farm to School Program by increasing Webster Public Schools' ability to pilot new agricultural education activities, increasing the sourcing of local food, developing school gardens and examining sustainability in their district. By expanding they will increase the number of students impacted across the district as well as strengthen relationships with their families and community partners as they work together to craft a long-term, comprehensive approach to farm to school in Webster.