

Alabama USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2014

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Montgomery, Alabama

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will partner with the North Alabama Food Bank, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Department of Education, and local schools to increase local sales of commodities to be used in school cafeterias. The Alabama Department of Agriculture will implement activities based upon twelve years of experience with the farm to school program that will create a network of farmers who are capable of providing large quantities of locally produced fruits and vegetables to interested schools. These activities will include training for school nutrition workers on handling local produce, GAP training for farmers, and outreach and promotion to the agriculture community and food and nutrition directors about the benefits of the farm to school program.

2015

Birmingham City Schools

Birmingham, Alabama

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Birmingham City Schools (BCS) will support the expansion of the Good School Food Program, a farm to school initiative currently operating in two of the five schools located in the Woodlawn community, with plans to expand operations in all five schools by August 2015. Funding will support three primary goals: 1) Increase the amount of locally grown foods procured by BCS and served in the cafeterias of the five schools in the Woodlawn community; 2) Expand the availability of innovative hands-on learning through agricultural and nutrition education, including alignment with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards; and 3) Increase coordination at the state and local level to support the implementation of farm to school activities in BCS.

2016

Food Bank of North Alabama

Huntsville, Alabama

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Food Bank of North Alabama will increase the volume and diversity of locally grown produce served in over 1,500 school cafeterias and 13 summer feeding programs. The project includes sales coordination on a local and statewide basis, succession planting planning and harvest coordination, product testing, GAP train-the-trainer training for cooperative extension agents, GAP certification assistance for farmers, marketing services, and cafeteria staff training and networking opportunities.

2017

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Montgomery, Alabama

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will use grant funds to assist farmers with GAP certification, revise the Alabama farm to school website, develop a state-wide promotional campaign, and support school garden curriculum development. The Druid City Garden Project will utilize funds to facilitate building mobile cooking units for schools to engage students in cooking demonstrations with produce grown in school gardens

2018

Alabama State Department of Education

Montgomery, Alabama

Grant Type: Training; \$25,707

The Alabama State Department of Education (ASDE) will train school districts and summer feeding sites on how to procure local foods for the 2019-2020 school year. Trainees will receive resources to guide them through the procurement process and ASDE will host a farmer meet-and-greet with Child Nutrition Program directors and food distributors.

2019

Feeding the Gulf Coast

Theodore, Alabama

Grant Type: Implementation; \$81,200

Feeding the Gulf Coast, will be working with Mobile County Public Schools to provide healthy, locally sourced, afterschool snacks and “take-home bags” through Mobile County Public Schools and processed by Feeding the Gulf Coast staff in an onsite commercial kitchen. Staff will also be providing children 30 minute nutrition and agricultural lessons intended to better connect children to their food.

Homewood City Board of Education

Homewood, Alabama

Grant Type: Planning; \$47,561

Homewood City Schools Farm to School program will expand access to regionally sourced foods served consumed across its school food programs. Through its planning process, Homewood City Schools will develop relationships with chain suppliers, create new menus and processes in a manner that features regionally sourced foods, as well as providing student opportunities to expand agriculture awareness, thereby increasing consumption of fresh produce.

Jones Valley Urban Farm

Birmingham, Alabama

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Jones Valley Teaching Farm (JVTF) Good School Food (GSF) Program, will reach 4,000 students attending five Birmingham City Schools located in the Woodlawn community. Activities will include expanding the Teaching Farm Apprenticeship program, strengthening classroom instruction, hosting Food of the Month promotions for student taste tests, cooking demonstrations, and culinary instruction, and integrating procurement activities into the operations of student-run farmer's markets. Key partners include Birmingham City Schools and the City of Birmingham Office of Innovation and Economic Opportunity.

2020

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Montgomery, Alabama

Grant Type: State Agency; \$92,618

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) will expand the Alabama Farm to School Program by developing programmatic resources and providing farm to school trainings. Development and enhancement of Farm to School resources will encourage statewide participation in farm to school activities including Harvest of the Month and Farm to Summer. Additionally, the ADAI will collaborate with the Alabama State Department of Education to provide local food procurement trainings and a networking opportunity with local vendors.