

Alaska USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2014

Alaska Gateway School District

Tok, Alaska

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,999

The Alaska Gateway School District "Gateway Farm to School Project" will develop an implementation plan that will allow the district to source at least 20% of the food served in the school meal programs regionally. The project will allow for the exploration and analysis of regional food sources and develop supply chains utilizing those sources. Once this planning process is complete, we will greatly reduce the amount of food that must be imported to Alaska from thousands of miles away from the lower 48 states, thereby providing children with food that is both fresher and more cost effective. The district recently received state funding for a greenhouse and garden project. This planning grant will allow us to enhance the existing greenhouse and garden project to increase on-site local food production. We will work with an agricultural consultant to develop a crop selection and rotation plan designed to maximize quality and quantity of food production during the short Alaska growing season. Training and facility development centered on food storage and preservation will allow summer and fall harvests to be utilized year-round by the district. The District will develop and begin implementation of a multi-level agriculture and nutrition curriculum that will provide students with the skills needed to become lifelong regional eaters.

2015

State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture

Palmer, Alaska

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$25,000

The Alaska Division of Agriculture Farm to School Program will host the first ever farm to school conference in Anchorage. The first day will emphasize farm to school in the classroom and community and the second day will focus on the cafeteria and local food producers. Session topics include garden based education, a farmer/producer networking session, local food procurement, school garden food safety, rural farm to school solutions, farm to school success stories, sustaining a program, and a farm to school funding discussion. Nearly 100 stakeholders have provided input into what they would like to see at the conference with people from all over the state planning to attend.

Southeast Conference

Juneau, Alaska

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; 25,000

The goal of the Southeast Alaska Farm and Fish to School Conference is to promote the formation of a network of local food producers and advocates, school administrators, business

managers, food service staff and educators, and relevant state and local agencies. It will feature successful models in action; methods to integrate local foods into daily meal preparation; cooking demonstrations and recipes for local foods; place- based, culturally appropriate implementation; and, local foods procurement.

2016

Alaska Gateway School District

Tok, Alaska

Grant Type: Implementation; \$95,231

The district will execute a strategic plan developed with a USDA Farm to School planning grant with the goal of increasing local food use to at least 20% in the Alaska Gateway school nutrition programs. This project will focus on developing the central district production greenhouse as a food production and educational facility, and equipping the associated food processing facility.

2017

Alaska Department of Natural Resources – Division of Agriculture

Palmer, Alaska

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources will assist communities in tailoring their farm to school efforts to their strengths, resources, and interests by creating a regional model of farm to school stakeholder engagement. The project team believes this will help bring ownership for farm to school activities, increase community buy-in, and develop project sustainability.

2018

Southeast Island School District

Thorne Bay, Alaska

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Southeast Island School District will increase its current capacity to produce local food for all school sites by expanding existing school gardens to boost productivity. Harvested foods will be featured on school menus, including in newly purchased salad bars for all school sites. School gardens will be used as a learning tool to engage students in agricultural production and expose them to culturally diverse foods. A volunteer group of school and community members will be assembled and trained to sustain garden activities throughout the calendar year.

2019

Kodiak Area Native Association

Kodiak, Alaska

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Kodiak Area Native Association, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD), will develop a Farm to School Action plan, supporting access to local and regional agricultural products and benefiting the entire KIBSD student population. The Action Plan will focus on increasing the volume of local agricultural products used KIBSD schools, increasing economic activity within the Kodiak region, and reducing the School System's dependence on food imported from out-of-State.

2020

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

Grant Type: State Agency; \$70,148

The Alaska Farm to Child Nutrition grant will provide funding for a state conference and sub grants based on a statewide Alaska Farm to Child Nutrition Plan. This statewide plan will assess and identify successful and sustainable attributes from previously funded projects. The conference will share those successes and provide training to support local-level models. Competitive sub grants will be available to local-level Child Nutrition sponsors.

Chatham School District

Angoon, Alaska

Grant Type: Planning; \$49,965

Angoon School (Chatham School District) serves 74 students, Pre-K through 12th grade, on rural, remote Admiralty Island in Alaska. All students live on the island, which is 55 miles southwest of the Juneau coast and accessible only by floatplane or boat. Despite the fact that Angoon is an isolated village with a largely subsistence lifestyle, youth are increasingly unaware of the effort that goes into producing the foods they eat. When asked how foods, such as fish or produce, are secured, the most frequent student response was, "You order it, and it comes." There is overwhelming support for introducing a school-wide curriculum featuring the essentials of a uniquely Alaskan subsistence lifestyle. The Angoon Farm to School Team will hold monthly meetings, designing a formal curriculum, planning future activities, and strengthening partnerships. The project will create an accompanying Action Plan Timeline, using USDA's Farm to School Planning Toolkit, featuring specific tasks for subcommittees and Event Leaders, to ensure sufficient leadership, clear roles and duties, and adequate work force to support the 12 month Farm to School calendar. In addition, the sub-committee tasks will focus on developing the curriculum and scheduling professional development and training for Angoon School teachers.

2021

Copper River Watershed Project, Inc.

Cordova, Alaska

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$22,317

Cordova's Farm to School partnership, consisting of non-profit organizations, dedicated food

service professionals, and numerous volunteer contributors, are collaborating to develop a greenhouse structure on Cordova School District property. This project will benefit the Cordova School District's 350 K - 12 students with hands-on horticulture learning opportunities and a true "farm to table" source of local produce. Need for this educational greenhouse project is evident when considering Cordova's remote, rural setting on the eastern edge of Prince William Sound where their primary way of procuring goods is through airfreight and barge shipments.

Sitka School District

Sitka, Alaska

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$50,000

The Pacific High School (PHS) Edible Garden project will support the installation of an edible garden, adjacent to both PHS and Baranof Elementary School (BES). PHS is a school of choice, serving high-needs students who have been underserved in the traditional system, and BES serves all of the district's grades K-1 students. The edible garden will be used as an experiential outdoor classroom and integrated into both schools' curriculum. Food produced will supply the Pacific High School meal program and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska summer meal program, in addition to being consumed as part of school and partner agency learning experiences.