

## Arizona USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Community Food Bank, Inc.**

*Tucson, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,107*

The Community Food Bank (CFB) will partner with eleven schools within the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) and one school within the San Xavier School District to continue to bring local, healthy foods into their cafeterias. The CFB has already established school gardens at seven of the participating schools, and plans on establishing gardens at the remaining schools. CFB will facilitate meetings between local producers with which they have strong partnerships and the participating schools. In these meetings, TUSD and San Xavier School District will build upon and improve their local produce procurement processes, and further develop their established nutrient-based menu planning. Our project has three areas of focus: food production and garden-based education; district-level changes to work with local producers; and farm to school partnership on Tohono O'odham Nation.

2014

### **Prescott Unified School District**

*Prescott, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,058*

The Prescott Unified School District will be the fiscal agent for the grant and Humboldt Unified, Chino Valley Unified, and Mayer Unified Districts (together know as the "Quad- City" area) will work as collaborative partners to impact 24 schools in four school districts, located in Yavapai County, Arizona. The total free and reduced lunch count for the Quad- City is 54.5%. A very active farm to school advisory committee is in place, including partners who have resources within the community to assist in moving efforts forward. This committee has been in place and actively meeting since spring of 2012. Initial beneficial relationships have been forged with commitments from four local school districts and fifteen community- based organizations. These resources make it an opportune time to move the farm to school effort forward. Local farms and food sources are viable assets and resources that will be explored during this planning process to determine future procurement and nutritional education opportunities for the children and adults in the Quad- City area.

### **The Star School**

*Flagstaff, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$44,338*

The "Food for Navajo Schools Project" will create a comprehensive farm to school implementation plan to provide a culturally relevant model for the 224 schools in the Navajo Nation. This plan will identify local or regional product availability and take steps required to integrate local and regional products, including produce from school gardens, into school meals.

2015

**Arizona Department of Education**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

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

The Health and Nutrition Services Division of the Arizona Department of Education will continue its work in local procurement. To strengthen buyer- supplier relationships, the grant will be used to provide exhibit space for local food suppliers to showcase their products to an expected turnout of 350 school food buyers at the Health and Nutrition Services Processing Conference and Food Show.

2016

**Tucson Unified School District, Tucson**

*Tucson, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,958*

Tucson Unified School District will secure a multi-vendor produce bid to increase local produce purchases and identify traditional fruits and vegetables for service at 86 schools, two preschool sites, three At-Risk Supper Programs, and 63 Summer Food Service Program sites. The project will also provide garden training for food service staff.

2018

**Community Food Bank, Inc.**

*Tucson, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,958*

The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona will collaborate with Sunnyside Unified School District to reinvigorate their school garden activities and provide technical assistance to district leadership and food service staff. Core activities include strategic planning to prepare the district for local food procurement and the implementation of multiple farm to school components.

**Mollen Foundation for Childhood Obesity**

*Scottsdale, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,400*

The Mollen Foundation will improve access and increase consumption of local, nutrient-dense foods for schools in Phoenix Elementary District #1 by expanding their current 6th-grade farm to school initiatives at Garfield Elementary School to include experiential, project-based integrated curriculum for 7th and 8th-grade students. The Mollen Foundation will also provide a variety of Harvest of the Month promotions, taste tests, and professional development opportunities to four additional schools within Phoenix Elementary District #1.

2019

**Gilbert Public Schools Nutrition Services**

*Gilbert, Arizona*

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

Gilbert Public Schools' A Garden in our Schools Planning Project (Project) will focus on 38 schools and reach over 35,000 K-12th grade students. The Project will establish a GPS Farm to School committee to oversee the Project; assess, analyze and strengthen current policies and procedures for food procurement; menus and recipes development; and education on nutrition and gardening, start, expand, enhance and/or strengthen school gardens and nutrition education by providing needed resources and training; and increase the amount of locally sourced food on the school menus. Key partners will include individuals from Nutrition Services, schools, teachers, and interested farmers/growers and community members.

**Prescott Unified School District**

*Prescott, Arizona*

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

The Prescott Unified School District will develop a comprehensive strategic plan to orient the district towards greater local food procurement as well as implement Farm to School Concepts that will be introduced to core academic subjects in the District's curriculum. This will include increased use of school gardens as outdoor learning environments, local food taste testing, and training for district leadership and food service personnel.

2020

**Arizona Department of Education**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$99,971*

To build capacity within the state agency, Health and Nutrition Services proposes leveraging its investment of the growing Arizona Farm to School Network with support from the USDA Farm to School Grant. This project will support current Network Chairs during its early years of development and the specific projects designed to increase and retain activity among meal service providers. In addition, HNS will hire a Project Director, who will directly oversee the Arizona Farm to School Network's development and the targeted projects that supports in forecasting menus, crop planning and facilitating communication among key farm to-program stakeholders. Targeted projects that need the support of this grant include: 1) Building a proof of concept in local purchasing incentive program, 2) Building an Arizona-specific agriculture education database, and 3) Expanding membership through Annual Gatherings & Annual Reporting

**Arizona Sustainability Alliance**

*Tempe, Arizona*

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

The Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA) will support six schools within the Alhambra Elementary School District (AESD) in creating and maintaining a vertical farm and ongoing farmers market. With support from local farm-to-market organizations, like the Tiger Mountain Foundation, AZSA will provide education, resources, and training to support students, staff, and teachers in developing the foundations for their own farm to market business. Collectively, the markets will provide approximately 5,300 students access to a source of fresh, healthy produce throughout the school year.

**The Paideia Academies, Inc.**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$22,026*

Paideia Academy South Phoenix will build a school garden ecosystem to include the following components: composting, raised garden beds, a fish tanks, a chicken coop with chicken runs. Through this project, the staff will create curriculum maps for all grade levels establishing lesson plans and linking state standards that connect agricultural education. The project will procure materials and resources that teachers, cafeteria staff, and the contracted caterers will use throughout the year to bolster the connections between locally grown agriculture, science, health and nutrition education. This unique ecosystem works in synergy to maintain the environment with minimal waste and upkeep, while providing students a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities in local procurement, agricultural education, and STEAM related areas.

2021

**Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center, Inc.**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

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

The AAEC-SM Edible Garden Project will include 4 aspects—aquaponics, a garden, safely preparing and distributing produce, and conservation. Beneficiaries will include about 508 students enrolled at the high school, especially more than 30 students in the school's Green Beans (Gardening & Natural Resources) and Future Farmers of America (FFA) clubs, and/or in the school's agriculture and natural resources classes. Partners will include a local chapter of FFA, and local food-banks--St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary's Food Bank.

**Arizona Sustainability Alliance**

*Tempe, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$30,319*

Utilizing cutting-edge food computer technology, the Arizona Sustainability Alliance will build an agricultural literacy curriculum for the Food Tech for the Future project in partnership with MARSFarm and the Tempe Unified High School District that connects an array of STEM concepts and gives students experiential agricultural education right in the classroom.

**Concordia Charter School, Inc.**

*Mesa, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$85,223*

Concordia Charter School, Inc. strives to bring educational excellence and food equity to one of Arizona's most vulnerable communities. With support from local partners such as Blue Watermelon Project and Sun Produce Co-Op, Concordia can reach beyond the classroom to create a positive and healthy learning environment. Concordia serves its students and community by offering nutrition and agricultural education, community outreach events, and support of local foods.

**Creighton Community Foundation, Inc.**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,349*

Fresh In The Neighborhood will scale up a developing community-integrated school edible garden and associated agricultural and nutrition education to reach beyond just child educational access but involve whole families through a stair stepped series of garden engagement and food choice (CSA and hands-on learning) programs that build familial nutrition capacity to create lasting change in an extremely low income, food desert, Opportunity Zone, inner-city K-5 community. By scaling a site that is already under small scale development, and starting with a substantial amount of matching resources and already operating programs, this community collaboration will help small agricultural producer partners and the lead agency establish good agricultural practices, achieve formal farm to table practices at the school site, and transform today's activity into a hub for pervasively good nutrition and food access, and lasting community change.

**Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community**

*Globe, Arizona*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$48,953*

Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community (NDC) is a community-based non-profit organization that promotes community revitalization on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. NDC is currently expanding its programming into a Community Food Hub on a 90-acre tribal-owned farm. The Reservation is recognized as a "food desert" where tribal members have little to no access to fresh food. Graham County is also a "Persistent Child Poverty County". Supported by key partners from the University of Arizona and Apex Applied Technology, NDC will work with a local farm-to-school planning team consisting of local farmers, ranchers, and community leaders to develop a comprehensive Farm to School Action Plan that will provide guidance for future programming for the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Planning will be driven by training on food safety, procurement policies development, and gardening. Technical assistance will identify and obtain funding from federal, state, local and private sources.