

Arkansas USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Fayetteville School District #1

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,058

Fayetteville Public Schools (FPS) has been developing a farm to school program since 2008. Experience with local procurement and educational programming provides a strong foundation for FPS to expand and institutionalize a sustainable farm to school program. The proposed project will build on Fayetteville Public Schools' past experience and existing community partnerships to develop a comprehensive farm to school program that will have dual health/wellness and economic prosperity impacts. The program will increase farm to school awareness through educational events, experiential learning, and curriculum integration while simultaneously integrating activities related to sourcing local and regional foods into everyday workflows and meal preparation by food service staff. The program will provide culinary training and improve food processing capacity to ensure local products are utilized in school menus throughout the academic year on a regular basis. The program will also provide educational and networking opportunities for existing and future producers.

Lawrence County School District

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

The Lawrence County District will lead a cluster planning project which is county-wide. The planning grant will involve three SFAs in four rural communities/schools. The project will be guided by a 22- member school and community organization team which will develop a "Code Green" comprehensive farm to school long-range plan by September, 2012. The plan will be implemented over a five-year period.

2014

Mansfield School District 76

Mansfield, Arkansas

Grant Type: Planning; \$32,721

The Mansfield School District serves 880 students on three campuses. The District is committed to the overall health and wellbeing of our students and seeks to establish a farm to school program that will complement other district initiatives. This planning grant will allow the district to form partnerships with local farmers and producers in order to increase procurement of locally sourced foods for the nutrition program. The District will also educate students, parents, and stakeholders about the farm to table connections and the importance of consuming fresh foods. The overall objectives of the program are to increase the availability of locally sourced foods to

students, provide nutritionally based educational opportunities, and to design a farm to school implementation plan that aligns with district, state, and national guidelines.

2015

Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute

Little Rock, Arkansas

Grant Type: Conference and Event – Regional; \$49,918

Building on our farm to school work through the Arkansas Grow Healthy Study, we will conduct multiple regional summits in the spring and summer of 2015. Attendees will include local farmers, child nutrition staff, city administrators, health professionals, education professionals, and community members (up to 50 attendees per summit). Each event will focus on drawing attendance from one regional area, including Arkansas and its six bordering states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas). The objectives are to train child nutrition staff in knowledge and skills to menu, procure, market, and prepare local foods in schools; to educate farmers about the Arkansas Market Maker program, school food safety requirements, and how to conduct business with schools; and to create new connections between community partners who support farm to school and child nutrition staff who need help finding farmers, planning events, and building a program around local procurement efforts.

Lawrence County School District

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Lawrence County Farm to School Initiative is a project based on implementing the comprehensive plan developed with support from a 2013 USDA Farm to School planning grant. Activities will allow the three school districts (Lawrence County, Hoxie, and Sloan- Hendrix) to concentrate on the development of the local/regional food procurement, school gardening, and integrated curriculum modules that were central to the vision developed in the three- year farm to school plan.

2016

Conway School District

Conway, Arkansas

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,927

Conway School District will design a local food processing kitchen program in a centralized school kitchen facility that will allow the district's schools to serve nutritious local produce throughout the school year.

The Wallace Center at Winrock International

Little Rock, Arkansas

Grant Type: Training - Regional; \$47,646

Winrock International will conduct trainings for small and mid-size producers and enterprises in food safety certifications, targeting states across the Deep South: Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

2017

Arkansas Agriculture Department

Little Rock, Arkansas

Grant Type: Training; \$31,381

The Arkansas Agriculture Department will build cross-sector farm to school leadership by training growers, valuing chain partners, state agency personnel and policy makers in Arkansas and surrounding states.

2018

Conway School District

Conway, Arkansas

Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,779

The Conway School District will enhance their farm to school efforts by expanding the local food processing kitchen program and the school garden initiatives that emerged from the 2016 USDA Farm To School Planning Grant. This implementation grant will allow for a more systematic process to contract with local and regional farmers. With the influx of local whole foods, this funding will enhance the central kitchen's ability to process food on-site and thus better meet the need of 16 schools in the district. Additionally, and with assistance from two FoodCorps service volunteers, 15 schools will expand their pre-kindergarten through 8th- grade school garden programs.

2020

Carroll County Resource Council

Green Forest, Arkansas

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Carroll County Resource Council in collaboration with the Green Forest Public Schools and Jeremiah House shelter for battered women will establish a plan to provide locally sources food to Carroll County schools. The project will work to establish self-sustaining farm-to-school relationships for local food producers and boost schools' ability to buy locally. In addition, the project will work to identify curriculum resources for integrating agricultural education into classes.

Springdale Public Schools

Springdale, Arkansas

Grant Type: Planning; \$20,000

The purpose of this project will affect approximately 960 students and families of Central Junior High. This project will mobilize community entities to facilitate an introductory meeting and create action plan. The project will also to extend the agriculture classroom by collaborating with local farmers, non-profits and the University of Arkansas Animal Science department to provide practical experiences to agriculture students increase nutritional literacy by working with University of Arkansas Animal Science department, local chefs and area nonprofits to teach students how to select, prepare and serve fresh produce. The practical knowledge gained by students working in a farm, will deepen students' understanding of the world's reliance on farmers and inestimable importance of land stewardship. In addition, the project will produce fresh vegetables on the Central Junior High campus for use at the school and in the snack pack program. The feasibility of adding fresh food to the snack pack program will be explored with a local nonprofit.

2021

Arkansas Department of Agriculture

Little Rock, Arkansas

Grant Type: State Agency; \$97,915

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture will host the first-ever Arkansas Farm to School Institute, to focus on bringing more locally grown foods into Arkansas school cafeterias, classrooms, and communities. The Institute will offer a direct opportunity to improve the health of students, strengthen relationships between local farms and schools, and improve the local food system and economy through the growth of local procurement and agriculture education at schools. Key features of the Institute include a three-day retreat, Farm to School (F2S) action plan development, implementation stipend, expert coaching for one school year, and peer networking. The Institute will effectively support 8 teams in the development and implementation of a comprehensive F2S action plan that will increase access to local foods in schools. Partners from the Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative will be involved in the project.

Fayetteville School District #1

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Grant Type: Implementation; \$82,251

Over the 24-month grant period, Fayetteville Public Schools Seed to Student (S2S) will improve student access to local food and agricultural education by enhancing existing farm to school programming and expanding the program to provide high quality, equitable and consistent child nutrition education and experiential garden-based learning at all 17 schools in the District. Since receiving a USDA Farm to School grant in 2013, S2S has become a regional leader in local food procurement and garden-based education. Under current District leadership and active community partnerships, now is an opportunity to enter a new stage of development for the program. Through the proposed grant project, S2S will implement new physical and programmatic infrastructure in the gardens and provide engaging new curriculum for students.

Healthy Flavors Arkansas LLC

Central Arkansas

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,996

Healthy Flavors Arkansas is developing a scale focused, closed-loop resourced, centrally administered farm to school program serving multiple public school districts in the Central Arkansas region. The organization aims to minimize multiple challenges faced on the farm and in schools by initially growing and selling a single crop, peas, that can be harvested, packaged, stored, and used in districts throughout the school year at affordable price points. Proceeds from local procurement will be invested back in curriculum development and agricultural education implementation in districts that choose to partner with them. Supporting institutions include the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the University of Central Arkansas, and the Arch Ford Educational Services Cooperative.