

## Georgia USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc.**

*Albany, Georgia*

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

Southwest Georgia Project (SWGAP) proposes to launch a region-wide farm to school program beginning with Dougherty County School System, the largest system in the area. We have already provided produce and education in this system on a test basis, with positive reactions from students and staff. As a result of our work with black farmers and rural families in the area for the past 45 years, SWGAP has built a substantial network of local vegetable farmers and farmer cooperatives, as well as community contacts, which will enable us to increase the supply of fresh, locally grown food in schools. The project will also help small farmers and food entrepreneurs to prosper and generate jobs as we promote healthy eating among students. We have initiated and will continue nutrition education activities that include food tasting, tours of nearby farms, talking with farmers about how food is produced, class discussions about the elements and importance of healthy eating, and class units on how plants grow. This project is a component of our long-term goal to build a region-wide local food system based on small farmers and entrepreneurs.

### **Healthcare Central Georgia, Inc, dba Community Health Works**

*Macon, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,992*

The Peach County farm to school program intends to help Peach County Schools offer tasty and nutritious locally grown agricultural products to students once to twice per week in an effort to combat childhood obesity and support the local farming community. The program will achieve this overarching goal by accomplishing the following five objectives: improving food service infrastructure and training; facilitating local food procurement; educating Peach County students about healthy foods and activities; and, promoting Peach County's farm to school efforts while developing the program's capacity for long-term sustainability.

### **Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Department**

*Carrollton, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$30,675*

As the Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Director for the last 11 years, it has been my focus along with our system's administration to provide the best possible healthy school environment for our students and staff and that includes school nutrition. Upon receipt of a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant in 2009 we have increased our knowledge of the importance of serving fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as increased our understanding regarding how to implement more

offerings into our school system. This knowledge and excitement leads us to increased planning and implementation of farm to school programs in the coming years.

2014

**Georgia Department of Agriculture**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Georgia Department of Agriculture, partnering with the Georgia Department of Education, launched the “Feed My School for a Week” pilot program during the 2011- 2012 school year. Three school districts, all located within geographically diverse regions of Georgia, were served 75- 100 percent Georgia grown lunches for five consecutive days. During those days, students, faculty, and staff learned where their food comes from, the nutritional value of various foods, and how to make healthy choices for the rest of their lives. Every school hosted farm field trips and agriculture field days during the week. Student projects included school gardens, fresh produce taste testing, and agriculture art and essay contests. The pilot program was an unqualified success! Funding from this grant will allow us, within the next two years, to expand our program by lengthening the pilot schools’ programs from one week to one month, and choosing five new schools to participate. It will also allow us to create a user- friendly website and an online farm to school tool kit to be available for all interested schools and other parties. Our long- term goal is to integrate farm to school food and activities into regular school practices for all Georgia schools in a practical, sustainable manner.

**Athens Land Trust, Inc.**

*Athens, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,700*

The Athens County Farm to School Program will involve students in growing food and participating in agricultural career activities, utilize and expand existing school gardens to grow food on school grounds, and develop the West Broad Market Garden, an urban farm operated by Athens Land Trust on school property, into a food hub and vendor that can provide school-grown produce for school meals. Athens Land Trust will partner with the Clarke County School District, University of Georgia, and other partners to provide additional training, volunteer support, resources, and coordination for the existing school programs. The program will engage students in agri-science education to grow food for school meals at the middle schools and three high schools. It will also further integrate nutrition education into existing curriculum. The West Broad Market Garden will be developed into a production, distribution, and educational food hub.

2015

**Tift County School System**

*Tifton, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$39,947*

Tift County School System will build on its current efforts to provide agriculture and nutrition programs that are experiential, educational, and better connect local and regional food to students in the system's 13 schools. The program will provide a plan to increase local capacity, build community support, provide better metrics for existing efforts, establish baselines for future outcomes, and serve a variety of local fresh food throughout the school year. Proposed activities include retrofitting a school bus to serve as a farm bus/rolling classroom, retrofitting the canning plant to be able to preserve local tomatoes, and irrigating the school farm to expand the growing season and increase yield.

**Georgia Organics, Inc.**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000*

The Georgia Organics proposal addresses the rising demand for farm to school and need for comprehensive showcase programs by placing more "boots on the ground" through FoodCorps service members in three target communities. These service members will be embedded with school and community partners to create model farm to school programs that will increase local food procurement, integrate food education, and establish school garden programs. This project will be paired with a formative and summative evaluation to determine the impacts of behavioral interventions such as taste tests, gardening and hands- on cooking, as well as best practices for replication.

2016

**Food Bank of Northeast Georgia**

*Athens, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$96,580*

The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia will reduce barriers to large-scale procurement, empower local leadership, stage program expansion, engage in summer feeding programs, and innovate in nutrition education. The project will position the farm to school program for long-term sustainability while maximizing impact and reach.

2017

**Georgia Organics**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Training; \$25,000*

Georgia Organics' project will develop and disseminate two essential trainings: the 2017 Farm to School Summit and the Farm to School Track at the 2018 Georgia Organics Conference. As two of the most comprehensive farm to school trainings offered in Georgia, these meet a timely need to prepare stakeholders to meet Georgia's 2020 Vision for School Nutrition (released in December 2015) which includes ambitious local food procurement goals.

**Forsyth County Board of Education**

*Cumming, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,106*

The Forsyth County Board of Education will standardize school gardens to develop a district-wide program that utilizes the garden as an outdoor classroom and expands the Farm to School Program in Forsyth County.

**Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Program**

*Carrollton, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$62,625*

Carrollton City Schools Farm to School Program, "Eat Healthy. Eat Local. Eat at Carrollton City Schools" will increase purchases and offerings of local foods through already established distribution channels and expand offerings through additional distributors.

2018

**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Training; \$18,750*

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will host a statewide Farm to Early Care and Education conference that will connect community partners, farmers, and vendors to institutions and sponsors participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

**Georgia Department of Education**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Training; \$24,000*

The Georgia Department of Education's School Nutrition Program will develop and conduct trainings focused on farm to school culinary techniques called, "Culinary Rooted in Georgia". The trainings will provide tools to (1) increase skills and knowledge related to using local foods in school nutrition programs, (2) expand the capacity of school nutrition programs to prepare and serve fresh, locally-grown produce, and (3) include a teach-it-forward approach to prepare participants to train others.

2019

**Baldwin County Board of Education**

*Milledgeville, Georgia*

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

Baldwin Grows is a collaborative partnership between the Baldwin County School District, local universities, UGA Extension Services, FoodCorp, local farmers, and community stakeholders known as the Baldwin Grows Farm to School Action Committee (BC-F2S-AC). The goal of Baldwin Grows is to enhance academic achievement, promote healthy lifestyles, and support local sustainable food systems through a 1.5 acre Baldwin Grows Learning Lab garden project, by helping students in all Career, Technology, Agriculture and Engineering (CTAE) departments develop an interest in agri-business, and by expanding existing local school-based garden efforts and use the gardens to enhance on-site STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education learning.

### **Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice**

*Decatur, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$20,000*

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (GDJJ) is home to Georgia's 181st school district, designed to serve youth involved in the juvenile justice system statewide. Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) is the formal identity of the dedicated school system which includes 29 schools located across the state. The Department will develop a strategic plan to ensure long term viability of Farm-to-School Initiatives within our agency so that all youth served by GDJJ may access the nutrition-focused educational experiences that serve as the building blocks of a healthy life and future.

### **Winder Housing Authority**

*Winder, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$74,345*

This project is a collaborative endeavor between the Winder Housing Authority, Wimberly's Roots, Barrow County School System (BCSS), Farm to School Boosters, Barrow County Extension, and the Grow It, Know It program. This project will feature technical training for local producers and school garden managers on food safety and post-harvest handling and storage, as well as culinary training for BCSS nutrition staff on use of fresh from farm produce in BCSS cafeterias. Additionally, this collaborative effort will further enhance farm to school activities and experiential education opportunities for students by developing basic infrastructure and farm plans for an 89-acre property donated to BCSS.

2020

### **Flint River Fresh, Inc.**

*Albany, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$49,832*

Building of the existing infrastructure of teaching gardens at elementary schools in Dougherty County, Flint River Fresh will provide educational workshops to students and staff and convene local stakeholders to develop a collaborative Farm to School Action Plan for food grown in schools gardens to be incorporated into school menus. Dougherty County School System,

Commodore Conyers College and Career Academy, and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension are key partners in this project, which identifies specific vegetable varieties that can be grown efficiently, trains school staff on effective cultivation and post-harvest handling practices, and facilitates intake and preparation processes for fresh, hyper-local produce into cafeteria kitchens. Three elementary schools in Dougherty County will pilot the project, and their experiences and results will inform a farm-to-school framework that can be applied across the school system.

### **Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$63,408*

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will strengthen Farm to ECE across the state of Georgia. The project will provide accessible statewide training on the implementation of a successful Farm to ECE program, curating dialogue on local procurement between Child Nutrition Program (CNP) purchasers, vendors and farmers, creating a database of Georgia's Farm to ECE initiatives, and fostering partnerships with Farm to ECE stakeholders. DECAL's grant initiatives will include a 101 training series, traveling Vendor Summit, hands-on implementation workshop benefiting counties with high obesity and food insecurity, spotlight program, and Farm to School and ECE Summit. By leveraging the Farm to School State Agency grant and community partnerships, DECAL will build upon Georgia's Farm to ECE foundations for improving access to local foods in CNPs across the state while emphasizing local procurement and nutrition and agricultural education efforts.

### **Georgia Department of Education**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$100,000*

Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) School Nutrition Program defines Farm to School as a movement that connects all parts of the food system with all aspects of the school day. It creates an educational opportunity for students to identify where food comes from, learn why it is important, and apply knowledge from all subject areas in an engaging way. The project will focus on eating local foods in the school cafeteria, working with school gardens, and participating in food-based learning activities that meet established curriculum criteria. GA DOE will collaborate with Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Organics, Royal Food Service, and local districts to create regional Fueling Georgia with Farm to School professional development workshops. The workshops will focus on two primary target audiences, Georgia Educators and Georgia School Nutrition Professionals.

### **Newton County School System**

*Covington, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,976*

The Farming IN School: Agriculture for ALL initiative is a collaborative effort led by the Newton College and Career Academy Agricultural Education Department. Through this initiative, students enrolled in all 23 schools located in Newton County would benefit by the creation of

Blue and Gold Acres, a fully functional farm located on the campus of Newton College and Career Academy. Blue and Gold Acres would increase agricultural awareness to students by providing hands-on learning opportunities centered around STEM, Agricultural Production, Biosecurity and Agricultural Advocacy. By utilizing community partners and resources, Blue and Gold Acres will be able to providing students a comprehensive and diverse look at farming and growing food.

### **Savannah- Chatham County Public School System**

*Savannah, Georgia*

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

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System will scale up its current school garden program into targeted schools with a high proportion of children who are eligible for free or reduced meals. With additional gardens at two schools, the program will operate gardens at five schools. The project will also expand Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math (STREAM) garden-based activities, nutrition activities/taste tests, and farm visits. Community partners will develop regionally specific curricula for teachers and school garden guides for site coordinators and volunteers to increase program sustainability and reach.

### **Ware County School Nutrition**

*Waycross, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$23,372*

The vision of The Green Roots Initiative is for students to become self-sufficient, while cultivating a love for fresh local produce, gardening and agriculture. The project will work to ensure an agricultural experience at each school by rejuvenating existing gardens and adding innovative growing systems for learning, production and sustainability throughout the district. Agriculture and nutrition education will be a priority that is accomplished through evidence-based curriculum and hands-on experience. The groundwork for local food purchasing will be laid during the planning phase. Evidence-based curriculum, hands-on experience and tutelage from local leaders in agriculture will offer elementary students a one-of-a-kind experience. High school special education students will obtain job skills in the agriculture industry, while collaborating with culinary classes, FFA and a community sponsored gardening club. Efforts will include Waygreen, Southeast Georgia's Local Food Alliance and Certified Georgia Food Oasis, Ware Children's Initiative and UGA Extension Office.

2021

### **Georgia Organics**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$95,337*

October Farm to School Month campaigns are a Georgia Organics strategy to expand Farm to School programming statewide since 2013. This funding would support expenses for the 2021 October Farm to School month campaign, reaching over 1 million students across the state while targeting schools in Muscogee County and city of Atlanta schools with printed educational

materials and farmers' market incentives. Interactive, innovative, educational resources are developed in response to participant feedback and to keep pace with instructional modalities. The key partners include Community Farmers Markets, Muscogee County Schools, The Columbus Botanical Gardens, the Georgia Farm to School Alliance and the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition.

**Hand, Heart and Soul Project, Inc.**

*Forest Park, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$33,315*

Hand Heart Soul Project (HHSP) will increase agriculture education at five early care and education (ECE) sites in Clayton County, GA by offering curriculum, supplies, and technical assistance. HHSP will form a committee consisting of HHSP staff, local ECE administrators, and Small Bites Adventure Club staff (a local expert in Agriculture Education integration). HHSP will also work with the Black Child Development Institute to provide training and hire an evaluator to determine if outcomes were met.

**HealthMPowers, Inc.**

*Norcross, Georgia*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$90,497*

The Empowering F2S in Schools, Homes and Communities project will train over 150 Georgia K12 schools, early care and out-of-school time centers on comprehensive farm to school programming increasing the number of learning environments that implement farm to school activities and make sustainable policy, system and environmental changes. A dedicated group of 34 schools and centers will receive on-site garden infrastructure, Georgia Harvest of the Month classroom taste test resources and specialized farm to school technical assistance. An on-demand virtual farm to school resource library will be supported to enable training and long-term sustainability of all sites. At schools and centers statewide, access to local foods will be improved through enhanced agricultural education and support of seasonal menus and local procurement.

**Quality Care for Children**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

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

Farm to ECE improves access to local foods for Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers participating in USDA CACFP through comprehensive farm to ECE programming that includes local procurement, hands-on activities for children and agricultural education. Overall, this project will improve access to local foods by 1) connecting ECE providers with farmers in their area, 2) providing support to foster communication between ECE providers and farmers, 3) providing technical assistance for ECE providers to implement agricultural education activities, and 4) creating a Network to serve as a place for providers to connect and problem solve together.



