

Louisiana USDA F2S Grant Awards

2014

East Baton Rouge Parish School System

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System farm to school program will provide opportunities for students and parents that live in food deserts in North and Old South Baton Rouge the opportunity to sample fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. Activities at the four selected elementary schools (Baton Rouge Foreign Language Academic Immersion Magnet, Buchannan, Ryan, and Winbourne Elementary Schools) will include “tastings” of locally produced fruits and vegetables for students and parents, visits from a local mobile farmers market, and “Sprouting Healthy Kids” programs such as cooking and gardening. In conjunction with members of Mayor Holden’s Healthy City Initiative, Big River Economic and Agriculture Department Alliance, Slow Food Baton Rouge, and East Baton Rouge Parish School System’s Child Nutrition Program, we will examine the most effective methods for increasing the amount of local food in East Baton Rouge public schools.

Firstline Schools, Inc. / Edible Schoolyard New Orleans

New Orleans, Louisiana

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

“Whole Child through the Garden and Cafeteria” will expand efforts to connect 2,561 urban K12 students to local food sources through healthy, locally procured cafeteria meals and snacks, hands- on seed- to- table gardening and cooking activities, Louisiana standards based classes, farm visits and farmers market field trips. Students attending FirstLine Schools, a network of five open admissions public charter schools in New Orleans, are economically and geographically disadvantaged, with limited access to fresh local products. FirstLine’s signature program, Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, creates demand “from the ground up,” engaging children in growing their own food in schoolyard gardens. Children and parents gain respect for and understanding of local food systems through integrated classes and special “edible” events. Parents and teachers harvest schoolyard crops, and are encouraged and equipped to take healthy food purchasing risks, to start their own gardens, and to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into family meals. This project aims to increase the amount of locally- procured food served in FirstLine school cafeterias, to provide more agricultural and nutrition- based learning opportunities, and to expand a new family- supported agriculture program in FirstLine schools. Its goal is increased knowledge, changed attitudes and behavior among students and parents, resulting in increased consumption of locally- sourced fresh foods.

2015

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,993

The Louisiana State University AgCenter will host a statewide farm to school conference focusing on school- based child nutrition programs. The conference will be held in Alexandria, Louisiana to bring together school food service managers, farmers, food distributors, and others involved with Louisiana agriculture and healthy school menus. The conference and three regional follow- up working group meetings will provide opportunities for interested parties, including agriculture professionals, faith- based organizations, smaller nonprofits, private schools and others, to join the farm to school movement. The objectives include promoting awareness of the farm to school movement, providing information on local procurement, sharing knowledge of existing resources on school curricula, and highlighting current experiential nutrition- related activities with existing science, math, physical activity and language classes.

KIPP New Orleans Schools Inc.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

KIPP New Orleans Schools' School Food Authority, the Healthy School Foods Collaborative (HSFC), serves a range of independent charter schools and charter management organizations across the city of New Orleans. The HSFC will work to develop a plan for the implementation of a full farm to school model by researching and facilitating partnerships between all actors in the supply chain and developing best- practices based educational programming with a focus on local foods in schools.

2018

Market Umbrella (marketumbrella.org)

New Orleans, Louisiana

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,198

Market Umbrella, the New Orleans non-profit that operates the Crescent City Farmers Market and several food access programs, will partner with schools, regional farmers, school food providers, and non-profits to implement farm to school programming in Orleans Parish. Market Umbrella will facilitate connections and track data between all project partners, while the project partners will (1) supply and procure produce, (2) provide training, education, and certification opportunities to farmers and teachers and, (3) implement relevant programming in schools.

2019

Louisiana Department of Education

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,450

The Seeds to Success! project guides schools in curriculum planning and promotes lifetime involvement in agriculture, building on existing Louisiana Farm to School (LaF2S) activities. The project has four components: (1) Seeds to Sow: all Louisiana K-8 schools receive promotional

seed packets with LaF2S literature, to raise awareness of LaF2S activities and resources and promote LaF2S's Harvest of the Month (HOM) program; (2)Seeds to Grow - Mini-Greenhouses: all HOM schools receive greenhouse kits with instructions and growing guides for classroom based learning; Seeds to Grow - Container Garden: HOM schools may request a more complex container gardening system to grow fresh vegetables for taste tests or use in school meals; (3) Seeds to Know: Creation of an interactive website that expands classroom curriculum. The site will use an interactive matrix, leading participants to topics such as: health, science and geography. The matrix leads to Seeds to Success - agricultural career information.

2020

Recirculating Farms Coalition, Inc.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Grant Type: Planning; \$49,984

The Recirculating Farms Coalition, a food and farm organization, cooperatively with the NET Charter Schools, where 100% of students qualify for F/R meals, will develop a comprehensive F2S Action Plan for F2S education and local food procurement for NET schools that can be replicated at other similarly situated schools. The project will develop creative ways to bring fresh local food into NET schools, expanding a successful pilot project into the NETs regular long-term practice and curriculum. The pilot included hands-on farming, farm-to-table health-supportive cooking and offered fresh food at school activities and events, and for students to take home. Plans include an on-site garden, outreach to students, their families, and the community for input and to increase participation; training STEM and career preparation (e.g. culinary arts) teachers to use the garden as an educational tool; and using food from the garden in cooking and nutrition courses and school activities and events.

2021

Louisiana Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,963

The Farm Fresh Kids project will improve knowledge of and access to locally grown food in three public elementary schools in East Baton Rouge Parish through agricultural education and edible gardening. By utilizing best practices from a prior pilot project, BREADA will work to enhance and expand existing edible gardens and provide hands-on cooking classes with their mobile teaching kitchen using food harvested from the gardens. The project will also bring a mini mobile farmers market experience to all three schools that will teach children where their food comes from, provide cooking demonstrations, and have them shop at a local farmers market.

IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,412

The IDEA Public Schools Farm Program will start a farm that grows fruits and vegetables for the cafeterias in the region using organic and regenerative growing methods. Students will be able to participate in every aspect of the farm from seed to consumption in the cafeteria. By participating in this way, students can be expected to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, engage in healthier eating habits, and promote an understanding of the impact the environment and agriculture has on their well-being.

Louisiana Department of Education

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Grant Type: State Agency; \$96,453

The Louisiana Dept of Education will improve access to local foods in schools via three project objectives: (1) Establish producer training in Louisiana by offering USDA's Bringing the Farm to School Agricultural Producer Training in each of seven regions throughout the state. (2) Establish a network of Louisiana Farm to School Ambassadors, each based in one of seven state regions. The ambassadors will expand program outreach and technical support by offering training to teachers, school administrators, child nutrition program staff and local producers in other core programs, including Harvest of the Month, and Seeds to Success. (3) Expansion of the Seeds to Success website (seedstosuccess.com), developed as part of a 2019 Farm to School Grant.