

Michigan USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Michigan Land Use Institute

Traverse City, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

This project, Scaling Up: Healthy Kids & Thriving Farms, involves the region's state-recognized farm to school outreach organization, the Michigan Land Use Institute (MLUI), schools in eight geographically close school districts that have worked with MLUI on farm to school programming and also have collaborated with each other, a group of growers ready to invest in much needed scaling-up, aggregation and infrastructure to meet school needs, and other committed community partners. It builds in sustainability by strategically investing in cold storage and minimal processing equipment to catalyze permanent infrastructure and value chain relationships necessary for scaling up local food procurement by schools. It builds student educational integration by positioning the agency that serves area school districts with professional development as the region's new farm to school resource (with inservices and a web site), hands-on education and cafeteria assistance to engage kids in healthy eating and local agriculture (63% free/reduced lunch). It will embed these activities through practice into school culture, create marketing and communications to build a sense of identity, and create celebration and support for farm to school efforts in the region.

Waterford School District

Waterford, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$44,900

Objectives of the project include identifying local resources that will facilitate implementation of farm to school; identifying local foods and appealing recipes to add to the menu so that as many local foods as possible are available during as much of the year as possible; providing training so that food service staff are fully prepared to implement farm to school; educating district and community leaders on strategies for successful implementation of farm to school; and creating a farm to school plan with short- term and long-term goals.

2014

Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District

Saul Ste. Marie, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District's "F.R.E.S.H. Schools Project" is located in Michigan's rural and isolated Upper Peninsula, an area with high rates of unemployment and low incomes. We are applying as a consortium of seven districts, with 55% of the students receiving free or reduced price lunch. We will collectively assess the districts and come to the table with farmers, local supply chain access points, our schools, and our partners

on a monthly basis to create a plan for farm to school program implementation. We will complete menu audits and then design a common menu between districts. This will allow growers to better plan for demand will facilitate group procurement. We will implement the Michigan's Harvest of the Month program featuring ready- to- go tools and resources for educators to give students hands- on opportunities to learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. We will also provide field trips to local farms, connecting students with the people who grow, raise and produce food. During these visits, farmers will go through operations and talk about the products they grow or raise food on their farms.

2015

Detroit Public Schools, School District of the City of Detroit

Detroit, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,117

Detroit Public Schools Office of School Nutrition proposes a training program to develop members in high- tunnel farming, general farm management, and distribution and logistics of fresh produce. Ultimately, this program is designed to grow and distribute more local products to all 90 schools and create a model for other urban areas. High tunnel growing is a specialty method of growing that requires a different production processes than outdoor growing. Proper ventilation and soil management are key to the success in high tunnel growing and different from conventional farming. High tunnel growing can be beneficial in a farm to school program because it includes better heat gain, season extension, control of foliar diseases and an overall more controlled growing environment.

Waterford School District

Waterford, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,227

This project will institutionalize farm to school throughout the Waterford School District and the community. This will be accomplished by scaling up several initiatives already in place to varying degrees throughout the district, such as purchasing locally sourced, minimally processed foods; increasing the amount of locally sourced foods that are actually consumed by students; curricular integration of farm to school concepts; and experiential, hands- on learning in nutrition education and agriculture concepts.

2016

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District

Pigeon, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$43,688

The Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District will form a collaborative team with the local hospital, local farms, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools, and a local greenhouse. While school districts in this area are primarily in rural, agricultural areas, no local food is currently

incorporated into the school meal programs. This project will change that by creating a pathway between local producers and schools.

The City of Muskegon Public Schools

Muskegon, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$43,500

The City of Muskegon Public Schools efforts will engage youth and community stakeholders in capacity building and action plan development for farm to school initiatives in four Muskegon County school districts, ultimately connecting local food to school cafeterias.

2017

South Haven Public Schools

South Haven, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,264

Farming with Kids Matters is a collaborative effort to increase farm to school products featured at school, increase nutrition education related to gardening and locally grown food, and build two mobile greenhouse buses in the school garden.

Michigan Department of Education

Lansing, Michigan

Grant Type: Support Service; \$70,280

The Michigan Department of Education plans to implement activities that contribute to cultivating leadership and expanding networks of food service directors by (1) conducting strategic planning activities to shape the development of a new Cultivate Michigan Farm to School Leadership Institute, and 2) hosting a series of regional Cultivate Michigan Marketplace networking events to help food service directors strengthen relationships with suppliers while helping the project team recruit for and promote the leadership institute focus groups.

2018

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker Schools

Pigeon, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,849

The Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker Farm to School Implementation Grant Program will strengthen the district's ability to connect directly with local suppliers and prepare more local foods for school lunches. The grant will fund equipment needed to process local food products and a food service worker to prepare the meals using local foods. Additionally, the grant will allow for food service workers from Huron County, Michigan to learn more about how to incorporate local foods into their menus.

Detroit Public Schools Community District

Detroit, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) will provide farm to school activities that support the development of healthy eating habits for DPSCD children by creating a healthy food culture at the district and individual school levels. The project will work towards this goal by strengthening two farm to school activities, the Detroit School Garden Collaborative and Integrating Culinary Arts Students in School Lunch Processing.

2019

Genesee Intermediate School District

Flint, Michigan

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

The Flint Farm to School Project brings together nine schools in four school districts, school district food directors, the Flint Fresh Food Hub, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Together, the members of the project will provide credit vouchers for the schools to buy from the Food Hub and incentivize schools to buy from the Food Hub. Another goal is to build the staff capacity of the Food Hub to serve the needs of schools and other institutional customers and educates school children, parents, and school personnel about healthy, locally grown produce.

Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency

Charlevoix, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$48,750

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan will partner with Public Schools of Petoskey and Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities to explore the next steps in expanding the farm to school program. The project will include the Culinary Arts Program, the food service, Ag-Science and additional community partners to develop an Action Plan for Farm to School.

Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District

Traverse City, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Traverse Bay Farm to School program will promote student learning, engage the school community, and build capacity for sustainable farm to school programming in the partner school buildings to expand current farm to school programming. Thirteen regional elementary schools within the Intermediate School District region will be impacted by the programming. Key partners of the project include regional school districts, Groundworks, Shape Up North (SUN) and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Urban Roots GR

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$75,845

Urban Roots will work with four local schools in cultivating, maintaining, and building a culture for school gardens. This project will focus on schools with high rate of students receiving free or reduced lunches and will provide opportunities for students to get their hands in the soil. The key partners include William C. Abney, Covenant, Southwood Elementary, and CA Frost.

2020

Kids' Food Basket

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Kids' Food Basket will establish a year-round Farm to School program between their 10-acre urban farm and Title 1 schools within the Kent Intermediate School District where more than 50,000 students are eligible to receive the National School Lunch Program. The program will target 5 schools and 50 school-aged groups to engage in farm to school activities. Kids' Food Basket Farm will utilize learning gardens, a greenhouse and a demonstration kitchen for onsite cooking lessons during the summer months and harvest season. Classroom nutrition education and taste tests will take place at the schools during the school day to promote the consumption of farm fresh produce and healthy eating behaviors that improve health outcomes lifelong.

Michigan Department of Education

Lansing, Michigan

Grant Type: State Agency; \$50,047

Michigan Department of Education will convene with key partners and champion Food Service Directors to develop a series of farm to school training videos on the topics of procurement, agriculture education, farm to program, school gardens, food safety, food prep, culinary arts, and more. These videos will be used in future Michigan USDA Child Nutrition program and partner organization trainings.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department

Stanton, Michigan

Grant Type: Planning; \$43,560

The project will lay the foundation for increased consumption of local fresh fruits and vegetables at two public school districts (Greenville Public Schools, Tri County Area Schools) in Montcalm County, Michigan. Key partners include the two participating school districts, local public health department, Healthy Montcalm steering committee, and local produce growers. The objective of the project is to improve access to local foods in eligible schools by developing a comprehensive Farm to School program that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts by developing a Farm to School Action Plan, write an Agricultural Education Plan and Procurement Assessment Plan.

Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$85,039

The YMCA will collaborate with HOPE Gardens to design and implement a garden and nutrition education program for schools in Wyoming, Michigan from July 2020-June 2022. The project will engage in developing and implementing shared strategies to provide collaborative, hands-on experiential learning around gardening and nutrition. Improving the attitudes, knowledge and access to healthy food and increasing opportunities for students to learn about gardening and nutrition while gaining self-esteem and social skills will be the goal.

2021

Montague Area Public Schools

Montague, Michigan

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,250

Real Food SEED (Student Engagement Every Day) is a Farm to School program embedded in the cooperative Food Service Department of Montague Area Public Schools and Whitehall District Schools in Muskegon County, Michigan created in 2015 to procure local seasonal food for the school nutrition program and provide food literacy experiences to Y5-12 students. Real Food SEED will partner with the West Michigan Food Processing Association-Food, Agriculture, Research, Manufacturing (FARM) Business Incubator Center to amplify local procurement, and will enhance existing partnerships with the county Career Tech Center, MSU and GVSU Clinical Dietetic Programs, and local farms. USDA Farm to School grant funds will assist Real Food SEED in capacity building to overcome logistical challenges through development of procurement and production systems, product testing, and expansion of agricultural education programming, increasing student engagement, and community impact.

Bethany Housing Ministries, Inc.

Muskegon, Michigan

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$45,467

Bethany Housing Ministries dba Community enCompass (CenC) McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, in partnership with Muskegon Middle School and the Muskegon Farm to School Planning Team will develop a Farm to School Action Plan. They will focus on activities that will lay a solid foundation for scaling their farm to school work. McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm is located on property recently acquired by the Muskegon Public Schools. They look forward to expanding and implementing Farm to School activities all year long on the new Middle School Campus. In addition to middle school students enrolling in the District approved curriculum "The Food We Eat", students will participate in an after school club where they can engage in hands on learning on site at McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm located on the same campus.

Crim Fitness Foundation

Flint, Michigan

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$50,000

The Crim Fitness Foundation, in partnership with the Flint Community Schools, will convene community partners to increase the sustainability of edible school gardens in Flint, Michigan. This partnership will ensure that school gardens provide fresh food for community members and hands-on learning spaces for students and families.

YWCA Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$50,000

YWCA Kalamazoo Children's Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan provides child care and education to ages infant - year before Kindergarten. The Farm to School Program will provide additional structure to the Children's Center food program to include more local partnerships with farms and other food providers. This program will help children to develop healthy attitudes towards food. The Wellness Coordinator will oversee the Farm to School Planning Team which will provide additional oversight to the program ensuring its success.