

Missouri USDA F2S Grant Awards

2013

Hartwig Legacy Foundation d/b/a KC Healthy Kids

Kansas City, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,645

The goal of the Farm to School Academy is to increase access to and consumption of healthy local food in low-income schools in the Greater Kansas City area and to educate school administrators and staff, teachers, children, parents and other stakeholders on the benefits of growing, buying and eating healthy local food and living an active lifestyle. The Academy will be a farm to school training, resource and garden center, with its own conference rooms, classrooms, demonstration kitchen and garden. The requested grant would, during the one-year grant period, enable KC Healthy Kids to implement the teacher training services provided by the Academy into one school and the foodservice training into another school; the grant would fund the two consultants who will train the classroom teachers and food service staff in the schools, the evaluation consultant, the website developer, a portion of the compensation of the project director and certain supplies, equipment and materials.

Winona R-III School District

Winona, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$27,130

This planning grant for the South Hadley School System is designed to integrate local food from surrounding farms in the Pioneer Valley into the school's food services with an introductory approach that encompasses the curriculum, the culture, the food and the community at large. Food is at the heart of all cultures. Our goal is to use the funds from this grant to make local food the heart of the school system in South Hadley. Food grown 15 miles away on the same side of the Connecticut River by community members, distributed to and eaten by students, staff and administration will intrinsically increase awareness about where food comes from.

DeLaSalle Education Center

Kansas, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$25,000

Founded in 1971, DeLaSalle Education Center operates a charter high school in Kansas City's urban core serving primarily low income and underserved minority students. In 2006, the school initiated a "Healthy Lifestyles" program to educate students on the importance of good nutrition and exercise. This existing program is perfectly aligned with the farm to school goals and already incorporates some of the farm to school initiatives. DeLaSalle will continue its current farm to school initiatives including a school and community garden, "Healthy Lifestyles Days" in which teachers in every subject offer integrated curriculum lesson plans that emphasize health and nutrition once quarterly, and the school chef's focus on cooking with fresh produce with

minimal use of processed foods; develop a buyers' coalition consisting of other local schools and nonprofit agencies to increase access to local food, and work with local farmers and vendors to develop access to food items for participating groups; analyze and revise school menus to improve nutritional content and increase use of local foods; and increase student outreach activities to improve student acceptance of locally available produce. Additionally, DeLaSalle will develop a farm to school action plan.

2014

Polk County Reorganized School District R-1

Bolivar, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$39,571

The Polk County Reorganized School District R- 1, in collaboration with Fair Play and Humansville School systems and Living Well Alliance will plan a farm to school program benefitting 3,383 students located in a rural area of southwest Missouri. An average of 69% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, with several of those participating in the "Back Pack" program to help supply meals on the weekend as well. This project will accelerate these districts' progress toward a restructuring of their "Comprehensive School Health Programs," which will expand produce with higher nutrient content into all meals served to students. While these districts have taken modest steps to date, such as movement toward more fresh fruits and vegetables to students when available and initial participation in the Healthier US School Challenge, no specific farm to school activities have been undertaken. This funding will provide opportunity for these districts to address gaps and resources in their planning work that would add essential, missing elements to expand healthy nutrition benefits to all students in the districts.

School District of Springfield R-12

Springfield, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$43,672

The School District of Springfield R- 12 is the largest accredited school district in Missouri with 24,878 students in schools. We have a federal free/reduced lunch rate of 54.3%, and 40% of all fifth graders are overweight and/or obese. Currently, we are not serving local food in the school cafeteria. The overarching goal of our project is to craft policy of incorporating local foods district wide that will be accepted through all levels of the school district while being compatible with food distributors. It is imperative that we start at the beginning by creating a complete plan that becomes accepted policy instead of just trying to haphazardly add local foods here and there. The objectives of this project are to expand our Local Food Access Team; examine school infrastructure and provide education regarding the farm to school toolkit; purchase a salad bar for three elementary schools while educating students about food; examine existing school structure and create a needs assessment for farm to school; and create a farm to school implementation plan. These goals will enable the School District of Springfield R-12 to contract with a food distributor willing to garner local foods, explore supply chain opportunities, and begin to feed students with and educate them about local foods.

2015

University of Missouri

Columbia, Missouri

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$24,920

The University of Missouri Extension will partner with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri School Nutrition Association, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Springfield YMCA, Opaa! Food Management company, Joplin Head Start, the Missouri Foundation for Health, and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to host a statewide farm to school conference. The goals of the one- day conference are to reduce barriers that prevent schools from procuring local products and to increase opportunities for schools and producers to establish mutually beneficial partnerships that result in increased access to local products in Missouri schools.

Columbia Public Schools

Columbia, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,935

Through this project, Columbia Public Schools will partner with University of Missouri Extension to expand and integrate its farm to school program through the following key activities: extend the use of local products by preserving the farm to school goods purchased for consumption during the non- harvest seasons; increase the amount of farm to school items served in the cafeterias by seeking additional opportunities to purchase local goods; extend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program initiative to grades 6- 7 in order to allow student tasting at all six middle schools; extend learning into the classroom through outside gardens that conserve on space and hydroponic gardens for inside use in the winter; promote a growing contest among middle school students to enhance learning; increase curriculum emphasis on the scientific aspects of growing produce and the health contributions of eating produce.

2016

Ferguson-Florissant School District

Florissant, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,500

The Ferguson-Florissant School District will partner with St. Louis University and local farms to expand and integrate its farm to school program through the HELP (Healthy Eating with Local Produce) project. Through HELP, student employees will use preservation techniques to make local produce available to all 24 schools in the district year round, even outside of regular harvest seasons. HELP will offer high school students culinary training, hands-on experience with local produce, and food production skills while providing employment.

School District of Springfield R-12

Springfield, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,488

The Springfield Public School District will build upon the momentum of an FY 2014 USDA Farm to School planning grant to increase student access to locally sourced products in six of the district's schools; strengthen student and community knowledge about food and nutrition; and increase market opportunities for local farmers, distributors, and food co-ops.

2017

Taney County Health Department

Forsyth, Missouri

Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,994

The Southwest Missouri Regional Farm to School Program will develop a regional food supply chain to bring regional foods into local school food systems. Farm to school activities will take place within the schools and include curriculum development, gardening activities, taste testing, and field trips to introduce students to local foods.

2018

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Jefferson City, Missouri

Grant Type: Training; \$25,234

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will train three trainers to teach the nutrition component of the Missouri Culinary Skills Institute (CSI) and support the fresh food landscape in Missouri. The CSI's mission is to support nutrition environments in schools by advancing the culinary skills and abilities of food service staff. The 2 1/2 day workshop for school nutrition professionals consist of classroom instruction, culinary demonstrations, and hands-on culinary labs preparing healthy kid-tested recipes. The CSI also helps schools make small changes to implement a farm to school program and connects participants with local farmers.

2019

Operation Food Search

Saint Louis, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$34,144

Operation Food Search, in partnership with Gateway Greening and Normandy High School, will implement an asset-based community development process to engage with Normandy High School scholars and their families; school administrators, faculty, staff, and alumni; as well as community residents, in creating a multi-year plan to transform the NHS campus into a teaching farm. Planning activities will focus on creating a space that addresses hunger, advances nutrition, and facilitates the integration of nutrition and agriculture into the school curriculum.

2020

EarthDance

Ferguson, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

EarthDance is a 14-acre farm and nonprofit organization located in Ferguson, Missouri, dedicated to educating community members about organic agriculture and healthy eating. EarthDance will develop a plan to supply its produce to Ferguson-Florissant School District (FFSD) schools; encourage student engagement with fresh food; help develop an agri-culinary program at The Innovation School at Cool Valley; and assess the baseline use and potential of existing school gardens. FFSD has a 100% free/reduced lunch rate and 89.6% of students are minorities. This project will benefit more than 10,000 students, along with FFSD faculty and staff, and students' families. Key partners will include administrators from the Ferguson-Florissant School District and The Innovation School at Cool Valley, a third-party evaluator, and a farm-to-school consultant.

North Callaway R-1 School District

Kingdom City, Missouri

Grant Type: Planning; \$49,996

North Callaway will create a school-garden pilot program utilizing collaboration between preschool students and high school agriculture career-education student-mentors. The Farm to School Grant Committee will be a subcommittee of the Wellness Committee tasked with creating and implementing the Farm to School Action Plan. The project will create a comprehensive, hands-on, age-appropriate, vertically aligned curriculum for PK-12 grade students incorporating agriculture, wellness, and science. The project will allow the district to network with an established local farm to school program. Utilizing their first-hand knowledge will help the district to overcome area-specific obstacles and gain a better understanding of operations.

Saint Louis Public Schools

Saint Louis, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

St. Louis Public Schools will build on existing Farm to School activities to create a district-wide initiative that will affect 71 schools with 22,000 students. In addition to district-wide activities, the project will expand a school garden partnership to five elementary schools and enhance an existing culinary arts program at a high school to process local produce for district procurement. Students will create prepared foods such as soups and sauces from local produce that will be served in school cafeterias. Partners will support each initiative: Gateway Greening, Southwest Foodservice Excellence, and Holistic Organic Sustainable Cooperative.

2021

Cornerstones of Care

Kansas City, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,201.10

Cornerstones of Care's Build Trybe program will increase the amount of locally sourced produce served in school cafeterias. It will improve farm infrastructure to increase production and engage students, K-12, in a comprehensive farm program. Programming will include collaborating with local small farms to procure local produce and coordinating grow plans with menu planning. The goal is that 2/3 of all fruits and vegetables procured will come from local producers including two Cornerstones of Care farm sites and five farm partners.

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency

Appleton City, Missouri

Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,408

This two-year project will enhance and continue current farm to school work and momentum in West Central's nine-county region by building on the agricultural strengths of the region and a growing rural network of food system partners and projects. Specifically, it will focus on expanding the amount of local produce in the Nevada (Vernon County Missouri) and neighboring El Dorado Springs (Cedar County, Missouri) school districts, both located within the Interstate-49 corridor, a central transportation route. This will be done through the following objectives: 1. Increase number of schools purchasing local food; 2. Raise the visibility of farm to school in the region; and 3. Business plan research for pre-processing foods.