New Mexico USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Farm to Table, Inc.
Sante Fe, New Mexico
Grant Type: Implementation; $97,724

This project will educationally and nutritionally benefit school children in schools with a high proportion of free and reduced price lunches and benefit local farmers by continuing to open New Mexico’s school market for local food purchases and increase school demand for local farm product. This project will improve local procurement strategies with community groups, farmers, and SFAs; prepare farmers for school markets with training and technical assistance to meet buyer requirements for food safety assurance, product traceability, vendor qualifications, and product specifications; develop promotional materials and activities to increase farm to school throughout our State’s communities by training school community partners to develop and incorporate experiential nutrition education activities in curriculum planning that encourages the participation of school children in farm and garden-based activities; develop and host farm tours to increase number of schools and farmers conducting local product sales; and, provide farm to school training and technical assistance to 30 new groups and 16 county and tribal communities who serve a high proportion of children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches.

Des Moines Municipal Schools
Des Moines, New Mexico
Grant Type: Planning; $39,355

Des Moines Municipal Schools (DMMS) and sub-recipient Union County Health and Wellness Network (UCHWN) will conduct a farm to school planning project to integrate more fresh, local fruits and vegetables into the district's cafeteria. The project includes feasibility analyses, business planning, and piloting of year-round growing, salad bar and other taste testing, food infrastructure mapping and consolidation of small farmers into shared marketing/distribution, curriculum integration, promotion of nutrition and healthy eating habits, and development of a shared strategic vision among stakeholders.

2014

La Semilla Food Center
Anthony, New Mexico
Grant Type: Support Service; $99,533

La Semilla is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a healthy, self-reliant, fair, and sustainable food system in the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. La Semilla Farm to School Program project focuses on making local food products available on school lunch menus within the Las Cruces Public School District. The proposed
The project will integrate local products, with a focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, and value-added food products, into the lunches of 3,091 middle school students, 72 percent of which are on free/reduced lunch. As a support organization, La Semilla will work with Las Cruces Public School District food service administrators and staff to provide nutrition and garden education that fosters an understanding of how food is produced; design and implement a promotional campaign that enhances student and public awareness of the farm to school program; and provide technical assistance to food producers entering the school market.

2015

**Farm to Table**
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**Grant Type: Conference and Event - Regional; $39,926**

The New Mexico and Southwest Region Farm to Cafeteria Procurement Training Program aims to increase local school food purchasing through procurement trainings. The program will consist of nine procurement trainings held across New Mexico that will benefit a minimum of 300 individuals throughout the Southwest region (New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Sovereign Nations). The trainings highlight the critical role of procurement teams: food service directors, procurement office specialists, kitchen managers and staff, state agency and tribal department staff, and non-profit and community partners. Trainings focus on procurement basics, best practices and tips for local food procurement, hands-on activities related to improving solicitations for local vendors, putting geographic preference to use, and creating bid specifications. The Farm to Cafeteria Procurement Training Program has great potential to positively impact farm to school activities and procurement systems for public institutions throughout the Southwest region.

**Magdalena Municipal School District**
*Magdalena, New Mexico*

**Grant Type: Planning; $43,947**

The Magdalena Farm to School Program proposes to connect Magdalena Municipal School District with local farmers, producers, and supply chain partners to provide fresh, local produce to every student in the district. The current project partners include a local organization, Healthy Kids, Socorro County, devoted to improving the health of the children in their communities by connecting farmers to schools and a local organic farmer who will teach an organic gardening elective course at the high school for the 2014-15 school year, in which the students will directly be involved in providing fresh produce to their school cafeteria.

2016

**Farm to Table, Inc.**
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**Grant Type: Support Service; $98,958**
Farm to Table will work with diverse rural and tribal communities to collaborate across geographies, cultures, and sectors to design a community-based approach to strengthen and deepen farm to school programs. Program areas include farmer engagement, nutrition education, kitchen and staff capacity, farm to preschool activities, and farm to summer meal program integration opportunities.

**First Nations Development Institute**  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Training – State; $23,342*

The First Nations Development Institute will convene Native American food producers and leaders from schools with primarily Native American student bodies for a two-day training. The event will facilitate connections between schools and producers, showcase best practices, present resources available to initiate and further develop farm to school programs, and provide an open forum to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities for farm to school programs in Native communities.

**New Mexico Community Foundation**  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Support Service - Volunteer Service Project; $100,000*

FoodCorps New Mexico develops statewide collaboration and facilitates critical analysis of New Mexico’s health needs through farm to school programming, service, professional development, strategic planning, and coalition building. With this project FoodCorps New Mexico will increase its number of school partners and administer programming with their students, administration, and community partners.

**2017**  
**Magdalena Municipal School**  
*Magdalena, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $94,701*

The Magdalena Farm to School Program will expand the use of its two greenhouses on campus through experiential learning opportunities for students pre-k through 12th grade in an effort to produce daily salad bar offerings onsite.

**2018**  
**Native American Community Academy Foundation**  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $95,609*

The Native American Community Academy (NACA) Foundation will support NACA, a public charter school located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to develop and scale a Native American-
focused food and nutrition curriculum, and cultivate an on-site garden that promotes education, wellness, and increased nutrition in school snacks and meals.

2019

**Capacity Builders, Inc.**  
*Farmington, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Planning; $50,000*

Capacity Builders, Inc. (CBI) will form and lead a Leadership Team over a 24-month period to develop a Farm to School Action Plan. Located in San Juan County, New Mexico, CBI will engage Central Consolidated School District staff/administrators, local producers, and community members to be part of this planning initiative. Central Consolidated School District, as CBI's partner, and with its 15 schools and approximately 6,000 students, qualifies for the Community Eligibility Provision and all students are eligible to participate in the free meal service program. Every student in the school district will benefit from a Farm to School Program as will local producers.

**La Semilla Food Center**  
*Anthony, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $99,962*

The goal of the Paso del Norte Farm to School project—a collaboration among Las Cruces Public Schools, Gadsden Independent School District, La Semilla Food Center, and Sol y Tierra Farmers’ Cooperative—is to improve access to local foods in schools and make local food products available to school salad bar menus in the Paso del Norte region, through the implementation of a comprehensive Farm to School program that will solidify farm to school activities at 20 schools in 2 school districts. This Farm to School program encompasses strong organized procurement with schools and farmers, coordinated and infrastructure-backed local aggregation and distribution that bring local or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias and classrooms; and hands on experiential learning activities.

**National Center for Frontier Communities**  
*Silver City, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $100,000*

The National Center for Frontier Communities (NCFC) will build on the ongoing success of its Southwest New Mexico Food Hub to scale the current supply chain, facilitate sales to up to six regional school districts and provide local food education to students in three school districts. NCFC will leverage key partnerships across the region to increase sales to local schools and help increase revenue for frontier and remote farmers.

**Taos County Economic Development Corporation**  
*Taos, New Mexico*  
*Grant Type: Planning; $49,692*
The project will identify ways to fill gaps in the local food supply chain in order to give small-scale producers — especially Hispano and Native growers — access to institutional markets while offering healthy, locally grown food to students. The plan will examine how to adapt school meal menus to accommodate more local ingredients, expand existing school gardens and local food-related programs, and incorporate agricultural education into day-to-day classroom curriculum at each school in the district.

2020

**Bernalillo Public Schools**
*Bernalillo, New Mexico*
*Grant Type: Implementation; $73,012*

Bernalillo Public Schools consists of a little less than 3,000 students, K-12th grade, who come from various communities throughout Sandoval County. The project will work with key stakeholders and our school sites from Algodones ES, Bernalillo MS, Santo Domingo ES/MS and Cochiti ES/MS to educate students on gardens vs. farming and learn about Tribal Lands and traditional techniques vs greenhouses that will be built at each site. The project activities will improve access to local food in eligible school, and identify both local procurement and agricultural education efforts to implement as part of the project.

**Center of Southwest Culture, Inc.**
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*
*Grant Type: Planning; $33,852*

The Center of Southwest Culture will develop a comprehensive Farm to School Action Plan that integrates both agricultural education and local procurement to help address the severe childhood food insecurity in New Mexico while also providing economic growth for local Indigenous and Latino farmers. The Center of Southwest Culture will work closely with both formal and informal school leaders to establish a strong School Advisory Team, and will identify farmers, food service personnel and local procurement experts to establish a strong Local Procurement Team. These teams will collaborate with CSC staff to develop a plan that is both successful and sustainable.

**Espanola Public Schools**
*Espanola, New Mexico*
*Grant Type: Planning; $37,500*

The Espanola Public Schools Farm to Freezer Project will create a conduit from "farm to freezer to cafeteria" that will improve access to local foods in our schools by procuring produce from local farms and orchards during the harvest season and freezing it for use throughout the school year. The project will plan a “Farm to Freezer” effort that will enable a robust system for purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables from Española Valley farmers in season and freezing them for use in our cafeterias throughout the school year. This effort will also include
the planning of new agricultural education and promotions designed to encourage students to consume healthy foods that are grown in their own community.

**New Mexico Department of Public Education**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

*Grant Type: State Agency; $99,062*

The New Mexico Public Education Department will demonstrate the viability of an integrated, streamlined farm to school procurement system administered by the State agency and driven by documented barriers experienced by growers and school buyers. Project objectives will help bolster the farm to school value chain at key advantage points through strategic investment in the critical technical assistance areas of food safety, wholesale readiness, and production planning for farmers, school buyers, and school garden practitioners. Student-grown produce from school garden and/or farm programs will be integrated into the project to assure the safety of products moving into school meals, and build administrative support for agricultural education on school grounds across New Mexico.

**2021**

**Peñasco Independent School District**

*Peñasco, New Mexico*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; $49,956*

The Peñasco Independent School District will plant a garden on a 1.5 acre plot next to a school. The focus will be on vegetables and grains native to the area (and often originally cultivated by Picuris Pueblo and Spanish settlers). Most seeds will come from local farms due to the specific growing conditions of New Mexico’s mountainous landscape (7500-feet elevation) and its short growing season. The garden will be integrated into school curricula so that K-12 students will be able to work on and learn about planting, growing, and harvesting, incorporating lessons about the 400-year-history of Spanish and Picuris cooperation. Following harvest, they will host cooking lessons, specifically on using hornos (adobe ovens). All of the food made will be given to students and families, which is important since the closest grocery stores (and sources of fresh foods) are 45 minutes away. By partnering with local farmers who have experience with education, the school district hopes to teach marketing practices to open and maintain a local farmer’s market.

**Santa Fe Indian School**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; $49,995*

Santa Fe Indian School will complete the required Action Planning activities to develop a school plan and increase school capacity to implement farm to school programming including developing partnerships and obtaining products from local growers/producers, identifying goals and objectives for agriculture on campus and school gardening projects and increasing
awareness and education within the school community regarding farm to school principals with a special focus on Southwest Native American culturally rooted foods and farming practices.

**Tides Center**
*Corrales, New Mexico*
*Grant Type: Implementation; $90,876*

One Generation’s Indigenous Farm Hub is a new farm and community education space in Corrales, New Mexico focused on revitalizing Indigenous farming practices and food systems. In this Farm to School Implementation project, One Generation will collaborate with two K–12 public charter Schools—Native American Community Academy and Albuquerque Sign Language Academy—to develop and engage diverse, low-income, and hearing-impaired students in bilingual agricultural education at the Indigenous Farm Hub. Students will have opportunities to sample their own farm-grown food once a week during school lunch and in produce boxes sent home with students whenever the farm produces extra food. The program will help students: 1) Access healthy foods and develop healthy eating habits; 2) Grow their understanding and appreciation of local food sources and sustainability; 3) Deepen their interest in agriculture; and 4) Learn about agriculture, language, culture, academics, and social-emotional skills.