

## Colorado USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

### **Weld County School District 6**

*Greeley, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$83,800*

Weld County School District 6 (WCSD6) has a strong farm to school program that has been operational for several years. To bolster the program and to provide benefits to surrounding districts and institutional buyers, WCSD6 is pursuing a food hub concept. With the proper equipment and training, this would enable the school district to purchase local foods while in-season, minimally process them, and sell these easier-to-use items to other school districts. Because the smaller school districts surrounding WCSD6 do not have the buying power and equipment to make a farm to school program practical, WCSD6 being a food hub would assist in expanding farm to school regionally. In addition, WCSD6 will continue its marketing and evaluation efforts through this project. The district will hire a contractor to research, develop, and test evaluation protocols most appropriate for the school district and state of Colorado. These reliable and valid protocols will be shared statewide to get a collaborative effort across the state.

### **School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,966*

The rest of the nation's public school systems are watching Denver closely. Our civic leaders have implemented some bold innovations and reforms that have proven successful in increasing student achievement and enrollment in Denver Public Schools (DPS). While Colorado as a state is known for its low rate of obesity in adults relative to the rest of the nation, childhood obesity rates in Colorado are increasing faster than those nationwide. In order to combat the childhood obesity issue, Denver Public Schools encourages students to eat more fruits and vegetables and move more (including movement through gardening). Denver is at the forefront of the local food movement and addressing this need and nowhere is this more evident than what is happening on our school grounds. We have successfully launched a farm to school model that can increase the capacity of our students to eat healthier foods and make healthier choices across the district. We envision a model that brings together schools, community partners and the DPS Food and Nutrition Services Department (FNS) that can work together and have positive implications on a national scale. The overall goals of DPS' Enterprise Management Department's farm to school project is provide Colorado grown products to Denver school children during lunch, to educate students on where their food comes from and how it is grown, and to ensure that the food coming from the urban farms is safe.

### **Weld County Re-8 Schools**

*Fort Lupton, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000*

The district has made some preliminary contact with local farms and would like to use this opportunity to strengthen the present agreements and bring in more farm partnerships. Through meetings and educational opportunities, the district hopes to develop these relationships. There is also a need to improve the kitchen facilities at Twombly Elementary in our district so that the school has the capacity to prepare, store and serve fresh local produce. Project funds will go to these needs with the goal of doubling the current farm partnerships to four and developing new menu items to provide students with fresh local foods. The district is committed to sustaining these efforts through the District Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Council.

2014

**Boulder Valley School District**

*Boulder, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$96,477*

Boulder Valley School District will undertake an intensive marketing and education program aimed at a 20% increase in consumption of locally-sourced natural foods, particularly fruits and vegetables, in our school meals. We aim to increase local purchasing to 46% of the annual food service budget. In order to achieve this within a sustainable model, we must increase the total number of children eating the school lunch menu regularly, and improve student acceptance and consumption of locally sourced foods as part of these meals. Marketing and education will involve all schools in the district for two weeks per year, called "Colorado Proud Weeks," and focus on ten high-poverty elementary and middle schools year-round. These schools serve over 4,000 children ages 3- 14, of whom 47% live in poverty households. Activities will include: field trips, farmer visits, tastings, student chef competitions, posters, cooking lessons, garden plantings and harvests, and classroom lessons closely aligned with science and health curriculum. The District will create "how to" manuals on garden to school and farm to school, for extended use by teachers, volunteers, and staff. Partners include local farms, dairies and ranches, grocery stores, farmer's markets, restaurants, school gardens, a local foundation, the Colorado State University Extension, and district curriculum departments.

**Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$98,880*

This project proposes to expand the dissemination of an existing farm to school evaluation toolkit and training, already developed, piloted, and refined by the Colorado Farm to School Task Force. Regardless of size, farm to school programs benefit from conducting evaluations of their efforts. The primary focus of the project will be to build capacity in schools and school districts to undertake evaluation related to their farm to school efforts. To accomplish this goal, the toolkit will be disseminated through webinars and in-person trainings at existing national or regional events. Additional technical assistance will be provided to up to 25 school districts to use the toolkit. This project is ready to hit the ground running. The toolkit and training already

exist and have been tested. Our program can make a meaningful difference for school districts throughout the country as they seek to expand, improve, and sustain their farm to school efforts.

### **Durango School District 9- R**

*Durango, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,998*

This project will take an existing space within the Durango School District and repurpose it into an aggregation center that will service the Durango School District and four surrounding districts. It will allow access to more nutritious, locally grown foods in meals, allow for larger purchases of local foods, and allow for greater control in inventory, food safety, and trackback. Most importantly, this project will provide the infrastructure necessary to continue to expand the farm to school programming in the southwest.

2015

### **Mancos Conservation District**

*Mancos, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$97,683*

The Local Foods4Local Schools project serves a rural area consisting of Montezuma and La Plata counties, including two reservations. The project will develop a new model for school-based production through hiring of a school production manager and production coordinator to cultivate a farm plot on school district property; support the development of a producer cooperative regional aggregation and distribution system to create a sustainable infrastructure to support procurement of local foods in local schools and beyond; provide training and technical assistance to school districts and producers to build their capacity to engage in institutional bidding and procurement activities; and engage students in experiential education farm, garden and nutrition activities. The school-based farm production and farmer cooperative regional aggregation and distribution system represent new initiatives that would be supported by this grant.

2016

### **Chef Ann Foundation**

*Boulder, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$95,656*

The Chef Ann Foundation will create free, accessible tools to support school district implementation and expansion of farm to school practices. This national project will support scratch cooking, local procurement, nutrition education, and other farm to school operations. The Chef Ann Foundation will develop scalable farm to school recipes and menu cycles for preschool and K-12 age groups.

### **Colorado Farm to School Task Force**

*Denver, Colorado*

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

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force, in partnership with the Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment, will conduct trainings to increase the number of Colorado's fruit and vegetable producers available to sell to Colorado schools. The training consists of a Producers' Intensive Farm to School Getting Started training and a farm to school mentorship program that matches seasoned producers currently selling to schools with producers interested in selling to schools.

2017

**San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition**

*Alamosa, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,866*

The San Luis Valley (SLV) Local Foods Coalition seeks to advance farm to school in the fourteen rural districts of the San Luis Valley and preschools in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center, the SLV Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Colorado BOCES Cooperative Buying Program, the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, Guidestone Colorado, the San Luis Valley Integrated Nutrition Education Program, Cooking Matters SLV and LiveWell Colorado. At the center of this proposal is the Valley Roots Food Hub, which sources locally grown produce, winter storage and greenhouse vegetables, proteins and value-added products, and distributes them to the regions, schools, institutions, and retail outlets.

2018

**Delta County School District 50J**

*Delta, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Planning; \$27,900*

Delta County School District will develop a network to sustain farm to school efforts that support local growers, students, and communities. Through partnerships with Valley Food Partnership, ENGAGE, and TCR, they plan to encourage learners to participate in the agricultural learning that is locally available to them. This multi-level approach will (1) give access to locally raised foods to students, (2) support local growers in their efforts to provide for and sustain their regional market, (3) boost a pipeline of industry-driven graduates, (4) develop information and resource support for farmers, ranchers, and aspiring agriculture students, (5) upgrade, renovate, and utilize farming and greenhouse space to create hands-on learning labs, and (6) partner with business associates and industry professionals to create hands-on learning and professional development opportunities.

2019

**Big Green**

*Boulder, Colorado (conducted in California)*

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

This project aims to pilot the well-established and successful community healthcare worker model to better support existing farm to school activities in Los Angeles Learning Garden schools. Big Green will recruit and train part-time Community Liaisons who will be assigned to clusters of schools with a goal of increasing growing capacity, teacher and parent engagement, and cultural competency for these schools.

### **Boulder Valley School District**

*Boulder, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,982*

The Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) will develop a Classroom professional development workshop series, while also expanding the district's ability to educate other BVSD community members on the educational opportunities available via the BVSD school gardens and greenhouse. The workshop will also identify more staff who might be interested in working with school gardens throughout the year. More accessible than school-based gardens, the greenhouse will provide opportunities for additional community outreach efforts, as well as teacher workshops, tours, and an annual plant and seed sale.

### **First Nations Development Institute**

*Longmont, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Training; \$50,000*

First Nations Development Institute is a Native American-led, national nonprofit with the mission to strengthen American Indian economies in support of healthy Native communities. First Nations will host a 1-day Farm to Tribal School Training for Native communities seeking to develop and expand new/existing farm-to-school initiatives. The training will be held in conjunction with the Food Sovereignty Summit hosted by the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, a Tribe with a successful local food system through assistance from First Nations and the USDA Farm to School Grant Program. Fifteen participants from a pool of Native communities working on farm-to-school initiatives will be invited to participate in the training. The training's primary goals include connecting Native farm-to-school initiatives with a majority Native audience, showcasing best practices for existing models, sharing available resources, and providing an open forum for discussion.

### **The Growing Project**

*Fort Collins, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$90,758*

The Growing Project (TGP) will expand their current experiential, farm-based education lessons, curriculum, and evaluation for and with PSD schools while also providing these same children with nutrient dense and fresh produce in their respective cafeterias—that students themselves

have planned, seeded, grown, and harvested. These farm lessons will be tied to all subjects across state and district learning standards We will also strategize and build a vegetable production and procurement plan with PSD nutrition services, and recruit future partner schools in order to scale-up our existing student farmer program so that it can be replicated across the district.

### **Livewell Colorado**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Training; \$26,693*

Livewell Colorado will convene two state-level Local Procurement Colorado Farm to School Regional Workshops providing training to food service directors, key kitchen staff members, and farmers. The trainings will be held in the Western Slope and northeastern Colorado. The goal of the trainings is connect school districts that are interested in participating in Farm to School with local farmers and producers as well as to provide specific trainings that will enable both groups to support long-lasting Farm to School Programs.

### **School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver**

*Denver, Colorado*

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

Denver Public Schools (DPS) will build a 1-acre pilot commercial greenhouse. DPS will then use this facility to engage a network of schools, community partners and the Denver Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Department to increase the amount of locally sourced produce served in school meals.

### **Walking Mountains Science Center**

*Avon, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,547*

The Sowing Seeds project will educate students on garden science and nutrition, working with students to grow fruits and vegetables in their school gardens and greenhouse for use in school cafeterias.

2020

### **First Nations Development Institute**

*Longmont, CO*

*Grant Type: Regional Institute; \$98,686*

First Nations Development Institute will expand Farm to School programs in Native communities and increase acquisition of locally produced foods. This project will increase capacity, networking, and build relationships that will boost participants' abilities to move forward strategically. This project will provide one in-person and five virtual trainings as well as individualized, virtual technical assistance to six-selected Native farm to school programs.

Furthermore, the webinars will offer training, specialized to Native community circumstances, to Native farm to school programs throughout the country. Through the convening, webinars, and/or working with First Nations, community partners will learn about resources for funding, training and technical assistance as well as Native-specific models that will help their farm to school programs.

### **Guidestone Colorado**

*Salida, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$50,207*

Guidestone has collaborated with the Salida School District, since 2011, to manage education gardens and the 4-acre Community & School Farm, both on school district property, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to all six school cafeterias and cross-disciplinary education programs to students from Early Childhood through high school. Guidestone and Salida School District will build capacity at school gardens and Community & School Farm. The project will increase production and extend the garden season, expand the capacity of Salida School District to utilize fresh produce, support teacher engagement and professional development by creating and piloting curriculum bins at the elementary and middle school gardens, and expand education program into the elementary school cafeteria and through a new high school capstone internship exploring agricultural careers.

2021

### **Colorado Department Of Education**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$97,500*

To improve access to local foods in eligible schools through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local procurement and agricultural education, CDE School Nutrition will use grant funding to 1) provide sub-grant awards to eligible SFAs (priority will be given to SFAs where at least a 40% of children served are eligible for free or reduced price meals) and 2) collaborate with Nourish to provide technical assistance to support SFA sub-grant plans focused on local procurement, agricultural education, and best practices for increasing meal quality.

### **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$65,000*

CDPHE serves to improve access to local foods for children in care across Colorado. Through the Transitioning ECE and Agriculture Meal Environments (TEAM) grant CDPHE will award eligible Child and Adult Care Food Program participants an incentive based sub-grant to increase local food served to children in care. CDPHE will strengthen existing partnerships with Colorado Department of Education and Nourish Colorado to provide agricultural and

procurement training. The TEAM grant will implement technical assistance strategies to increase peer to peer networking and improve the nutritional quality of meals served to children.

### **Denver Urban Gardens**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$48,415*

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) will revise existing curriculum through an equity lens, infusing new lessons with culturally responsive approaches to learning, bearing in mind the foods, experiences, history, and cultures of students from diverse backgrounds. DUG will tap into its network of school gardens at Title I Denver Public Schools to pilot the curriculum in three Opportunity Zones with support and feedback of teachers, principals, educational advisors, and Denver food coalition partners. Evaluation will help to define the impact of newly developed lessons with a focus on STEM-related activities and experiential nutrition activities that highlight culturally relevant foods, creating meaningful connections to students' lives and backgrounds to promote healthy eating.

### **Pikes Peak Permaculture**

*Manitou Springs, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$41,000*

Flying Pig Farm cultivates food, learning, and community on a 1-acre urban farm. In partnership with schools from Manitou Springs School District-14 and Colorado Springs School District-11, they will expand farm to school opportunities to reach more students and will establish a curriculum aligned with core curriculum standards with accompanying ready-to-go material and lesson-plan kits. As part of this curriculum, Flying Pig Farm will also connect students with the broader regional agricultural community through a high school "Careers in Agriculture" unit.

### **Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Educational and Charitable Foundation**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,135*

The goal of the Local Procurement Colorado Workshop Series is to improve access to local foods in participating school districts. The trainings are unique because they will bring food service directors, key food service staff, and local producers and food hubs together to learn how school districts and producers can work together to strengthen local food systems and communities. This series will focus on eastern Colorado, with a series of three tailored workshops in Southeast Colorado and a series of three tailored workshops in Northeast Colorado. The workshops will build school districts' and producers' capacity to work together to incorporate more local products in school meal products. The workshops will also provide important and valuable connections between food service directors and producers.

### **Sprout City Farms, Inc**

*Denver, Colorado*

*Grant Type: Turnkey; \$46,860*

Sprout City Farms will update their current farm to school curriculum to include virtual activities for online learners. This project will impact Kindergarten to 8th grade students at Denver Green School, a neighborhood public school. Sprout City Farms' key partners in this project include Denver Green School teachers, principal, and support staff, An Ounce of Nutrition, and contracted curriculum and evaluation specialists.