

Maryland USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Baltimore City Public Schools

Baltimore, Maryland

Implementation: Schools \$93,750

With the “Great Kids Farm to School Initiative,” Baltimore City Public Schools will expand three key programs that offer educational opportunities: healthy eating, local produce, and the school system’s Great Kids Farm. The initiative will use new salad bars in school cafeterias as a vehicle for offering student-grown and locally-sourced ingredients; connect the new salad bars in these school communities to a comprehensive experiential education program called Healthy Eating, Healthy Living, which encompasses teacher professional development, curriculum delivery, and installation and facilitation of edible schoolyards that help supply the salad bars with produce; and will leverage the partnerships and resources within the Green Schools Network to pave the way for additional schools to have salad bars and participate in the Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program. Linking the educational opportunities at the Great Kids Farm to students at schools with salad bars serving fresh local produce will usher in a new era for Baltimore City Schools’ farm to school efforts.

2017

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, Maryland

Grant Type: Support Service; \$97,662

The Maryland Department of Agriculture in partnership with Maryland State Department of Education will engage all of Maryland’s 24 school systems to expand the amount of locally-grown foods procured in the Summer Meals program and increase enrichment programming activities. Statewide activities will include a local food market feasibility study of supply chain partners in Summer Meals, Harvest of the Month summer campaign, technical assistance training, a rural culinary school vegetable processing pilot, and agriculture and nutrition-based activities with a focus on farmers markets and on-site gardens.

2018

Land & Cultural Preservation FUND, INC/DBA Community F.A.R.E

Walkersville, Maryland

Grant Type: Planning; \$31,333

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) will develop an action plan to integrate locally grown fruits and vegetables into school meals in all 68 schools. Project partners and community leaders will (1) assess successful farm to school programs in other regions, (2) evaluate possibilities and obstacles to buying more local fruits and vegetables for school lunches, (3)

assess the acreage and extended season infrastructure necessary to grow the fruit and vegetables for FCPS, and (4) propose a plan that includes a pilot project to launch the program.

Maryland Food Center Authority

Jessup, Maryland

Grant Type: Planning; \$46,287

The Maryland Food Center Authority (MFCA) will collaborate with Maryland fruit and vegetable growers, school districts, and community partners to develop a farm to school network for central Maryland public schools. The project will examine structural and programmatic challenges of integrating more fresh, quality food into schools. It will engage various stakeholders to address supply chain bottlenecks, gaps in resources, food safety, food security, curriculum enhancements, and promotional activities. MFCA will develop strategies that leverage the production capability of local farms and build the system capacity necessary for year-round local procurement in communities of highest need.

2020

Waterkeepers Chesapeake/Fair Farms

Takoma Park, Maryland

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,704

Frederick County Public Schools, Community FARE and other partners will work towards their 2025 goal of 10% locally sourced produce in a mix of 10 rural, urban and suburban elementary, middle and high schools, the majority with over 50% free and reduced meals. The project team will continue farmer interviews and production planning, utilize, and evaluate, digital solutions for procurement and tracking local purchases, support Harvest of the Month and taste tests, continue to test and evaluate field trips, curriculum development, and share tables, monitor change in school lunch purchases, and build a plan for long-term Farm to School program sustainability. Waterkeepers Chesapeake/Fair Farms serves as fiscal agent for this project.

2021

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, Maryland

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$24,991

The Maryland Department of Agriculture in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension's (UME) Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) and the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs will conduct a training to Maryland producers, including small to mid-size producers, interested in selling locally grown food to Maryland public schools and eligible providers including five schools identified in priority populations by using the "Bringing the Farm to School: Agricultural Producers Training" curriculum in a workshop.

Maryland State Department of Education

Baltimore, Maryland

Grant Type: State Agency; \$96,766

According to the 2015 USDA Farm to School (F2S) Census, Maryland schools purchased over \$18 million of local food products. Maryland aims to improve access and increase procurement of local foods in schools across the state, particularly in priority schools located in Opportunity Zones with 40% or more of students receiving free and reduced meals. Maryland will achieve this with comprehensive, collaborative and strategic F2S planning among multiple stakeholders, including school districts with high numbers of priority schools, and agricultural education in targeted priority schools. The proposed project, A Roadmap to Farm to School Sustainability, will engage F2S stakeholders at the systems level for sustainability planning, and at the site level, provide agricultural education and promotion among teachers and end users (students). Maryland Department of Education will partner with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and SNAP-Ed over a 2-year period to implement these approaches, which will begin with identifying the needs and assets of stakeholders.