



United States Department of Agriculture

# THE FARM *to* SCHOOL PROGRAM



FY 2013–15

## Summary of Grant Awards



## AUTHORS

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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# INTRODUCTION

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) established ambitious new nutrition standards for school meal programs and strengthened the safety net for millions of children. The Act included many provisions to help schools meet the new standards, including a mandate to create a Farm to School Program within the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Helping operators of Federal child nutrition programs access more locally produced foods is a primary activity of the USDA Farm to School Program. In USDA's vision, local and regional foods, and therefore economic

opportunities for U.S. food producers, are present throughout our nutrition assistance programs. To accomplish this vision, USDA encourages participation from all types of agricultural producers including farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and all types of food businesses such as food processors, manufacturers, distributors, and other value-added operations.

To date, the USDA Farm to School Grant Program has funded 221 farm to school projects.

In addition to serving local food, farm to school programs often include food, agriculture, and nutrition education that

emphasizes hands-on experiential activities, such as school gardens, field trips to local farms, and cooking classes. For example, students might dissect vegetables in science class, run farm stands using school garden produce to learn business skills, or practice data visualization techniques using plant growth measurements. All these activities contribute to an integrated approach to learning centered on food, agriculture, and nutrition.

Indeed these types of farm to school activities – bringing local foods into the cafeteria, building school gardens, and teaching children where their food comes from – are proving to be very effective tools in implementing the changes called for in the HHFKA. Preliminary results from the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census suggest that schools with robust farm to school programs are seeing reductions in plate waste, increases in school meal participation rates, and an increased willingness on the part of children to try new foods, notably fruits and vegetables.

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act tasked USDA with supporting farm to school efforts through grants, training, technical assistance, and research. To date, the USDA Farm to School Grant Program has funded 221 farm to school projects. We're pleased to support these programs, and feel confident the grantees whom we fund are establishing models that can be emulated and built upon by districts nationwide.

This report, which provides an in-depth look at our first 3 years of grant-making, summarizes findings from an analysis of select data from projects funded during fiscal years (FY) 2013 - 2015. It combines both quantitative data about *planned* activities derived from coding used during the proposal review process and qualitative stories about *completed* activities primarily from grantee progress reports.

**Behind all of the facts and figures that follow are hundreds of stories:**

Stories of gardens growing, communities connecting, local farmers bringing home a little more money, and, most importantly, stories of children eating healthful, local, delicious food at school. USDA staff feels privileged to hear and witness these stories firsthand. We have included in the report just a handful of the inspiring images, quotes, and narratives that have come to us from the extraordinary districts, organizations, and agencies we have funded.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The term farm to school describes efforts that bring local or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias; hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes; and the integration of food-related education into the regular, standards-based classroom curriculum.

The United States Department of Agriculture supports such efforts through its Farm to School Program, which includes grants, training, technical assistance, and research.

**U**SDA awards up to \$5 million annually in competitive farm to school grants for program planning, implementation, and activities such as training, partnership development, equipment purchases, and development and maintenance of school gardens.

### From Fiscal Years 2013 through 2015:

**1,067** applicants requested a total of **\$78.4** million in grant funds

**\$15.1** million was awarded to applicants

**49** States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands received at least one award

**53%** of awards were made to schools and school districts

**78%** of awards went to support schools or school districts with free or reduced-price meal eligibility rates greater than 50 percent

**12,300** schools and **6.9** million students are estimated to have been reached through activities funded by USDA Farm to School Grants

**221** applicants received awards



**Grantee: Chicago Public Schools, Illinois**

Students at Spencer Technical Academy are clearly excited to begin planting a variety of herbs in the school's raised-bed garden.

## MAJOR GRANTEE ACTIVITIES

- ➔ **Buying local foods** for school meal programs
- ➔ **Training staff** in local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and integration of nutrition and agriculture-based curriculum
- ➔ **Purchasing equipment** to support the additional food processing, preparation, and storage needed to handle local and regional foods
- ➔ **Delivering hands-on experiential education**, aimed at enhancing student knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to agriculture, food, and nutrition
- ➔ **Developing partnerships**, communication networks, and outreach materials
- ➔ **Completing project evaluations** to measure change and document outcomes and impacts







Farm to school has been a tremendous success across all levels in our district. The program has fit seamlessly with our ongoing efforts to offer healthy lunch options and increase student knowledge about nutrition...

Our new “Eat Real Food” Farm to School program has helped make nutrition and agricultural education a regular topic of conversation in our mainstream classrooms. Our students, staff and families are now more aware than ever before about the abundance of locally-grown produce available in our state, its nutritional value, and ideas for incorporating it into their home menus.

There is a sense of excitement and pride in sampling these local foods among all audiences. Our contacts at the USDA were invaluable in helping us create our current program and in conceptualizing our next steps for program growth.

{ CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, USDA FARM TO SCHOOL PLANNING GRANTEE, FY 2013 }



“

...this grant allowed us to supplement bits of enthusiasm with tangible training, education, community involvement, and an overall interest in how farming and eating local foods can be exciting and create a sense of community and hands-on learning.

{ USDA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTEE }

# THE USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

The grant program has evolved since its inception, funding projects of increasing scope and impact each year. In FY 2013, planning and implementation grants were offered; in FY 2014, support service grants were introduced; and in FY 2015, training grants were made available primarily using additional, discretionary program funds from the USDA Farm to School Program. These four grant tracks are described on the following page.



# FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT TRACKS

- 1 Planning grants** are intended for schools or school districts just starting to incorporate farm to school program elements into their operations.
- 2 Implementation grants** are intended for schools or school districts to help expand or further develop existing farm to school initiatives.
- 3 Support Service grants** are intended for State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities working with schools or districts to further develop existing farm to school initiatives and to provide broad-reaching support services to farm to school initiatives.
- 4 Training grants** are open to all interested parties and are used to disseminate best practices and spread strategies known to succeed.<sup>1</sup>

## Grantee: Colonial School District, Delaware

A student at William Penn High School grabs a lunch that includes local asparagus and lettuce harvested from the school's multi-acre, student-run farm.



<sup>1</sup> Additional details about this grant track are provided in Appendix B.



Snippets from grantee progress reports, like this one from Portland Public Schools in Maine, show that grantees are tracking purchasing changes closely, and seeing real results:



Approximately 30 percent of the \$1,463,039 spent during the 2013 – 2014 school year was used for the procurement of a wide variety of locally-sourced produce, beef, seafood, and baked goods and represents a marked increase from previous years. The \$438,101 spent on local products represented a 26 percent increase from the 2012 – 2013 school year, and indicates a dedicated effort to increase the amounts and varieties of local foods offered on school menus.

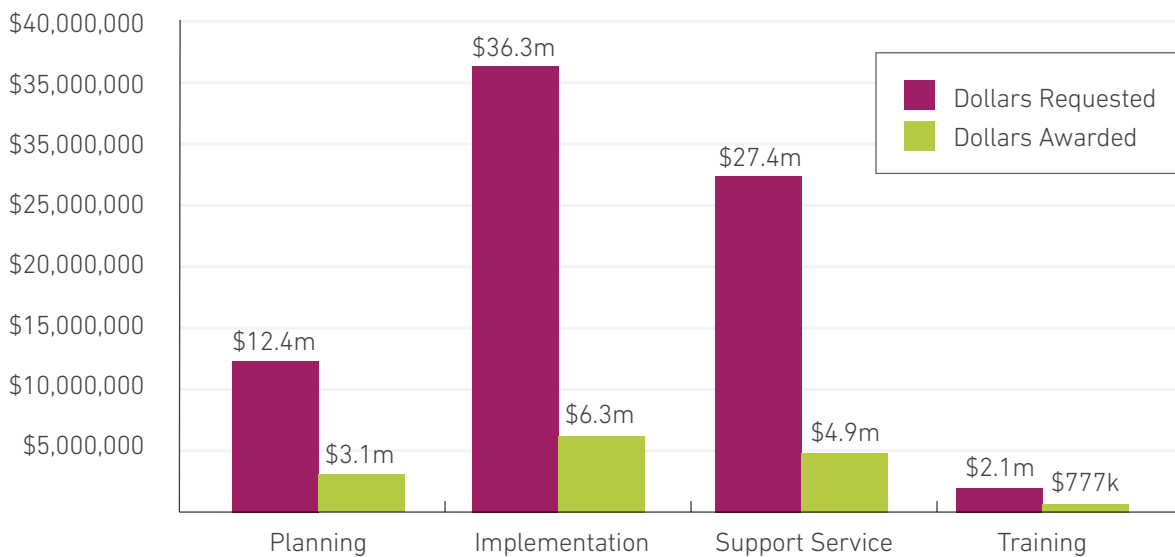
{ FARM TO SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE, FY 2013 }

# GRANT REQUESTS AND AWARDS

## Amounts and Types

From FY 2013 - FY 2015, grant program applicants requested approximately \$78.4 million in funding and were awarded \$15.1 million. Award amounts ranged from \$14,613 to \$100,000, with an average amount of \$68,122. Grant awards supported no more than 75 percent of the total cost of each project. Figure 1 shows the total amount of requested and awarded funds by grant type.<sup>2</sup>

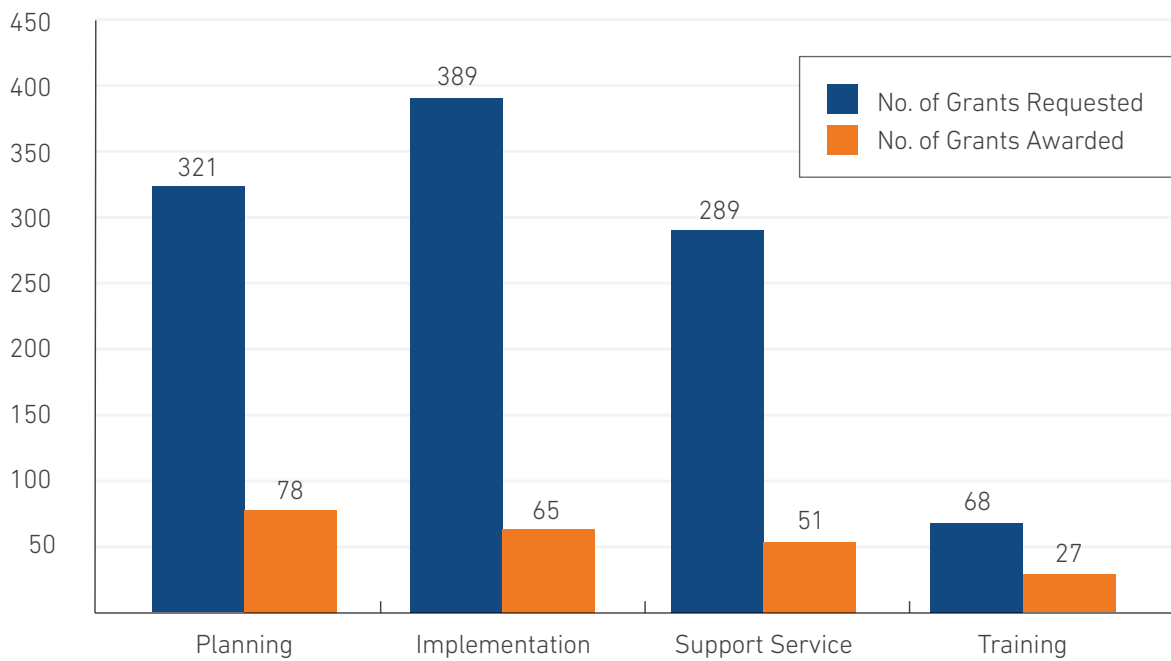
**FIGURE 1** | Dollars requested and awarded by grant type in FY 2013 - FY 2015



<sup>2</sup> Additional data about the number of dollars requested and awarded by grant type is available in Table 1 of Appendix A.

From FY 2013 - FY 2015, a total of 1,067 applications were received and 221 applications were funded for an overall award rate of 21 percent. As shown in Figure 2, 321 applications were received for planning grants and 78 were awarded funds. Additionally, 389 applications for implementation grants were received and 65 were awarded funds. Furthermore, 289 applications for support service grants and 68 applications for training grants were received and 51 and 27 applications were awarded funds, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

**FIGURE 2** | Applications received and awarded by grant type in FY 2013 - FY 2015<sup>4</sup>



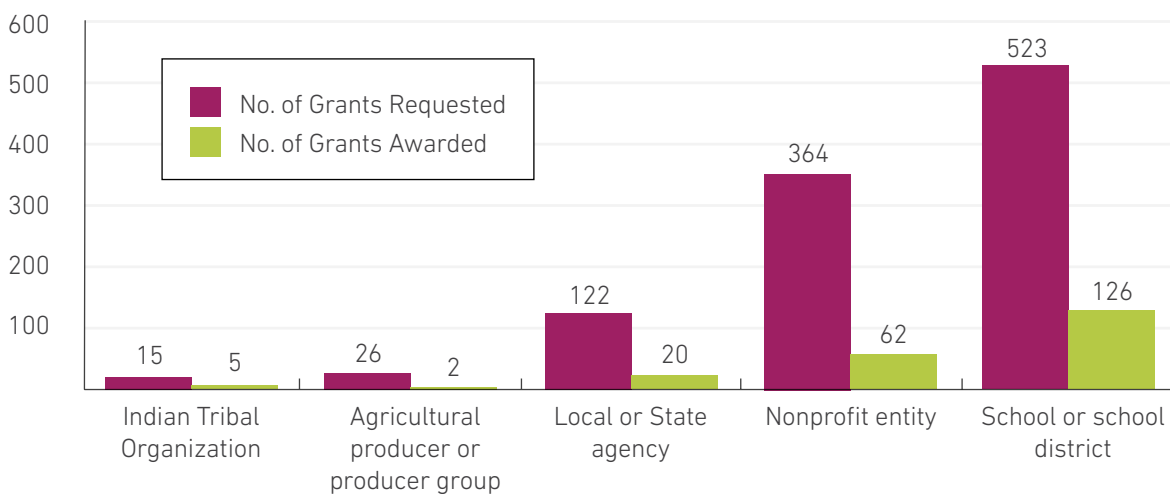
<sup>3</sup> Additional data about the number of grants requested and awarded by grant type is available in Table 2 of Appendix A.

<sup>4</sup> In FY 2013, support service grants were classified as "implementation other" and are included as implementation grants in this figure.

## Organizations Applying for Grants

USDA Farm to School Grant Program funds are available to eligible schools, State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities. The numbers of these groups requesting and receiving awards are shown below in Figure 3.<sup>5</sup> Schools applied for and received the highest number of awards (126 grants), followed by nonprofit entities (62 grants).

**FIGURE 3** | Grant requests and awards by applicant type in FY 2013 - FY 2015



This grant program is a good investment by USDA, and, in this region at least, USDA is getting their investment back.

{ USDA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTEE }

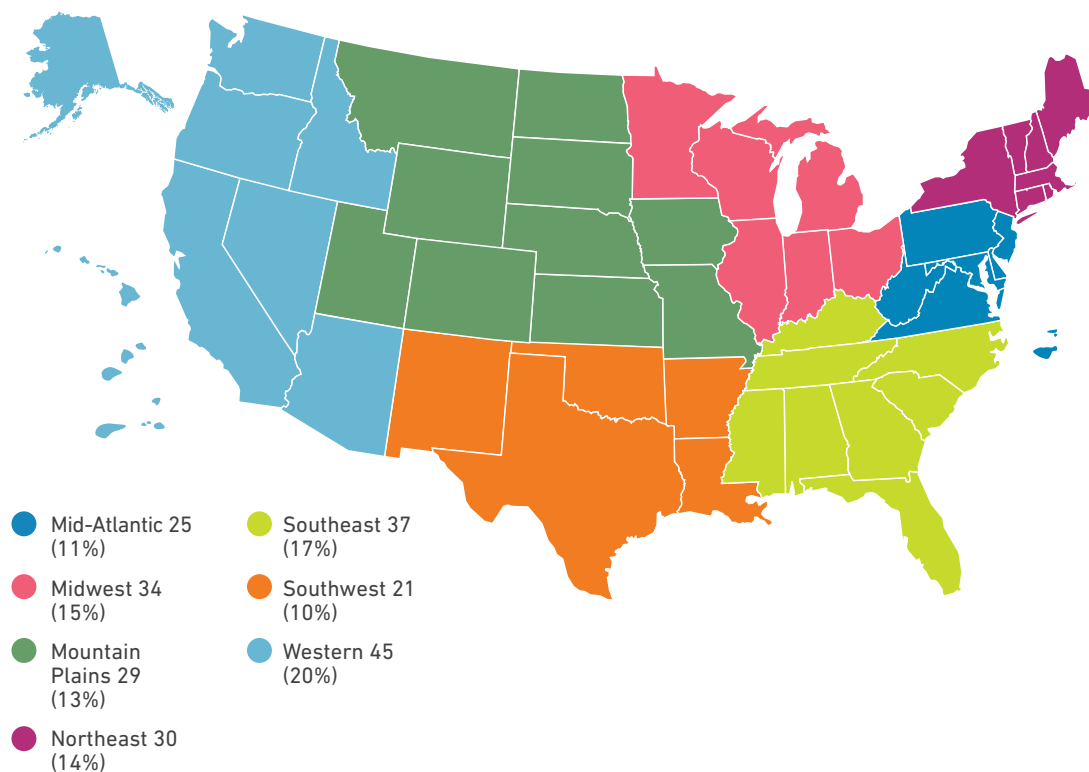
<sup>5</sup> Additional data about numbers of grant requests and awards by entity type are available in Table 3 of Appendix A.



## Geographic Distribution

Figure 4 shows the distribution of grant awards by FNS region.<sup>6</sup> Organizations in the Western region applied for and received the most grants (45 grants or 20 percent of the total number of awards). Organizations in the Southeast region received the second highest number of awards (37 grants) followed by the Midwest region (34 grants). While organizations in the Southwest region received the fewest awards (21 grants), they had the highest percent of applications funded compared across all seven FNS regions.

**FIGURE 4** | Distribution of grant awards by FNS region in FY 2013 - FY 2015



In FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015 40 percent of the schools or districts impacted by a USDA Farm to School Grant were considered rural and 56 percent were considered urban at the time of the application.<sup>7</sup> In FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015, 85 of the total 221 awards (38 percent) were distributed to States or territories with StrikeForce designated counties under USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> A State-by-State breakdown and additional details of regional distribution of applications and awards are available in Table 7 and Table 8 of Appendix A.

<sup>7</sup> USDA is missing data from 4 percent of the schools or districts impacted by a FY 2013 – FY 2015 grant project. A year-by-year summary is available in Table 4 of Appendix A.

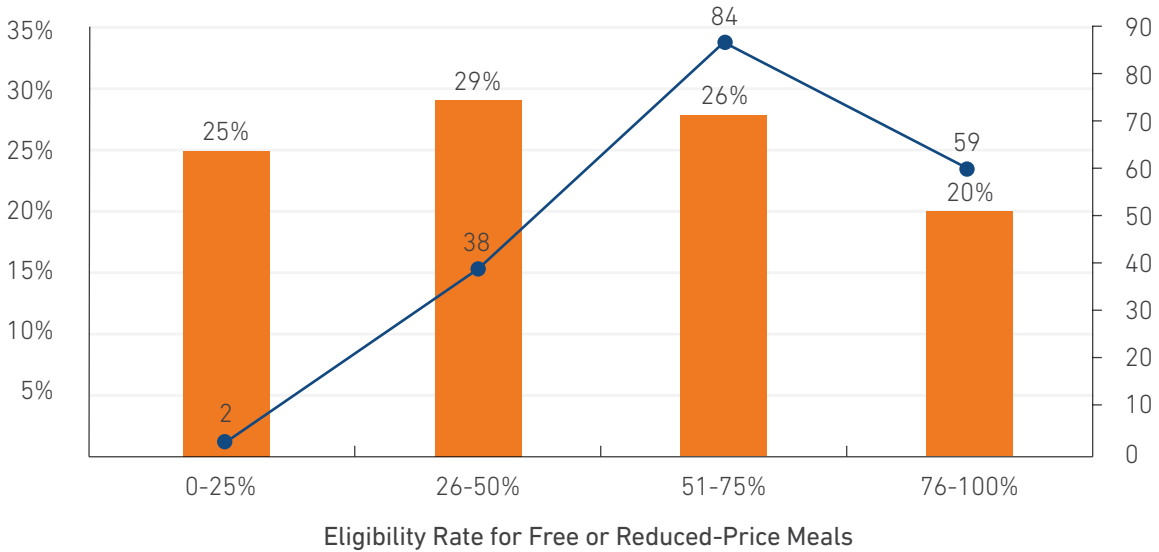
<sup>8</sup> For more information about the USDA StrikeForce initiative, visit [www.usda.gov/strikeforce](http://www.usda.gov/strikeforce).

## Students Served

Funded projects are estimated to reach approximately 12,300 schools and involve an estimated 6.9 million students in farm to school activities.<sup>9</sup>

The grant program prioritizes applicants that serve a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Figure 5 compares the distribution of U.S. students at schools of different free and reduced-price meal eligibility rates to the corresponding number of USDA Farm to School grants serving schools at those eligibility levels.<sup>10</sup> Based on available data from grantees (183 of 194 grant projects), the majority of grant awards (143 grants or 78 percent) went to support schools or school districts with free or reduced-price meal eligibility rates greater than 50 percent. Approximately 59 percent of the 6.9 million students impacted by these grant awards are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.<sup>11,12</sup>

**FIGURE 5** | Percent of U.S. schools by students eligible for free or reduced-price meals and the corresponding distribution of grant awards



<sup>9</sup> Numbers have been updated because previous estimates released were found to be inaccurate due to reporting errors. A summary of these statistics can be found in Table 5 of Appendix A.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2011–12. See Digest of Education Statistics 2013, table 216.60.

<sup>11</sup> A summary detailing the number and percent of grant projects by free or reduced-price meal eligibility rates can be found in Table 6 of Appendix A.

<sup>12</sup> Data about students eligible for free or reduced-price meals is not available from all 194 school based projects because 11 grantees were unable to provide this information.





GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

# WEST NEW YORK SCHOOLS, NJ

District chef Liz receives a fresh shipment of strawberries and tomatoes from a local food hub in the morning, washes and preps them in the school kitchen, then heads into the classroom in the afternoon for a tasting and lesson as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.







**Grantee: Firstline Schools, Inc. /  
Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, Louisiana**

Students at Firstline Schools in New Orleans,  
LA rinse greens harvested from their school garden.



Together we are improving and maintaining food service quality through breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner across our five schools, as well as expanding outreach to families through unique “edible experiences.”

{ FIRSTLINE SCHOOLS, INC. /  
EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD NEW ORLEANS, LA }

# GRANTEE ACTIVITIES

USDA Farm to School Grant Program funds support both the planning and implementation of farm to school programs by schools and districts.

Planning often includes convening a farm to school team, creating a program vision and goals, establishing procurement plans, developing new menu options, training staff, preparing kitchens, and building community awareness. Many planning grantees will both plan and begin to operate their programs during the course of their funded project.

The operation of farm to school programs often includes food procurement, processing, and preparation; developing supply chain solutions; communications and outreach efforts; program administration; delivery of curriculum activities; building and maintaining school gardens; providing training; purchasing equipment; and many other activities.

Major areas of grantee activity are described in the sections that follow. Stories included in this section come primarily from progress reports submitted to USDA by grantees.

GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT

Finding, buying, and serving local foods is a central activity of farm to school programming.

**45%** of grantees included training specific to the procurement of local and regional foods.

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**37%** planned to work on distribution solutions (e.g., food hubs, partnerships with distributors).

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**35%** provided training for farmers, food service personnel, and garden coordinators about food safety, food handling, and good agricultural practices (GAP).

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**22%** planned to develop aggregated supply approaches (e.g., farmer cooperatives, product aggregation solutions).

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**20%** planned aggregated buying approaches (e.g., school based cooperatives).

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**15%** requested agriculture production supplies (<\$5,000 a unit).

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**9%** requested food processing, manufacturing, or distributing equipment (>\$5,000 a unit).

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## PROGRAM IN ACTION

The Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, a grantee operating in the six counties that make up northeast Iowa, has created the Iowa Food Hub, in part, to help four rural school districts expand their farm to school programming. When a local food service director was struggling to purchase local turkey for their school Thanksgiving meal, the food hub brokered a “buying club,” allowing five schools to purchase local free-range, growth-hormone-free turkey roasts from a nearby three-generation turkey farm.



GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Healthy partnerships between farm to school stakeholders (i.e., school faculty and staff, parents, farmers, distributors, food service companies, and policy makers) are a key component of program success and sustainability.

Recognizing this, USDA requires that applicants for implementation and support service grants demonstrate proof of existing partnerships. For planning grants, identifying partners and solidifying partnerships during the funding cycle is a required activity.

Communication and outreach are also critical program elements needed to build the less formal partnerships with the larger community including parents, local businesses, community members, and other important stakeholders.

**83%** of grantees planned to strengthen existing partnerships.

**69%** planned to develop new partnerships.

**66%** planned other types of outreach and communication (e.g., events, media).

**25%** intended to develop promotional materials (e.g., brochures, signage, etc.).

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA), a nonprofit agency in Gardiner, Maine, is using their USDA grant to connect the work of several food-oriented programs. The local sheriff heard about HCCA's grant project and offered to donate produce from his department's longstanding program that teaches inmates agricultural skills and provides healthy food for the State Department of Corrections, area food pantries, and hunger relief organizations.

One immediate barrier was the fact that potatoes and winter squash are highly labor intensive to process. HCCA identified the local Meals on Wheels and community meal provider for the elderly as having the capacity to process the donated produce for a nominal fee. The result of this partnership has been nearly 3,000 pounds of fresh local produce donated to three school districts, the savings from which allow schools to reallocate some of their food purchasing dollars to other local foods purchases.

GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NUTRITION-BASED EDUCATION

The majority of grantees include in their proposals activities related to teaching kids about nutrition, agriculture, and where their food comes from.

**65%** of grantees planned experiential learning activities (e.g., field trips, cooking classes, taste tests).

**18%** planned parental involvement activities.

**46%** intended to purchase classroom materials to support instruction.

**56%** expected to engage in curriculum development.

**31%** of projects had a teacher training component.

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

Enrolling more than 18,000 K-12 students in Los Angeles County, California, the Pasadena Unified School District is using their USDA grant to create a comprehensive K-5 farm to school curriculum. Three of 13 elementary schools have begun training teachers to use a recently piloted 73 lesson plan curriculum, with weekly lessons addressing the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), California Health Standards, and 21st Century Skills. In order to support farm to school curriculum implementation, school gardens across the district have been surveyed and mapped.





**Grantee: Manco Conservation District**

Kids learn about kids (baby goats, that is!) at Kemper Elementary School in Cortez, CO.



GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# LOCAL FOOD PROCESSING AND PREPARATION

Processing, storing, preparing, and serving fresh, local foods often requires new cafeteria infrastructure, new menu items, and staff training.

**50%** of grantees planned to develop new products for menus.

**46%** included training for food service staff such as menu planning and culinary skills.

**40%** requested funding for school kitchen supplies (<\$5,000 a unit).

**23%** requested funding for school kitchen equipment (>\$5,000 a unit).

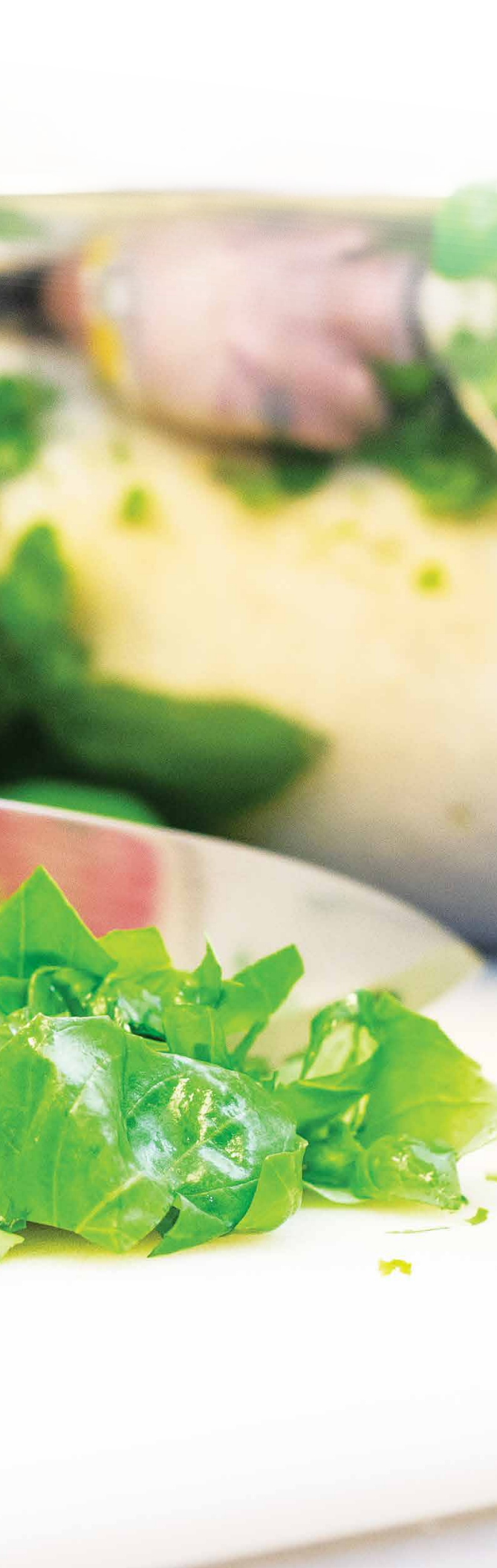
**24%** planned value-added approaches (e.g., canning, storing, freezing).

**11%** planned to acquire salad bars.

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

The STAR School serves 130 Native American students grades K-8 near Flagstaff, Arizona. Based on student input and taste test results, this grantee has created five new local food recipes for the school meal programs. Also, special breakfast events on the first Saturday of each month feature native recipes such as Blue Corn Pancakes with Juniper Ash and Navajo Corn and Squash Sauté.





## GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# PROGRAM EVALUATION

All grantees are required to conduct evaluations and report data about the processes, outputs, and outcomes of their work. Some conduct their own evaluation and others hire external evaluators. Grantees proposed to measure a variety of outcomes including changes in children's attitudes, knowledge or behavior related to food; levels of community engagement; economic effects on producers; changes in children's health; and policy changes.

**88%** of grantees planned to use quantitative methods such as student surveys, waste audits, and procurement data analysis.

**72%** planned to use qualitative methods such as interviews and/or focus groups.

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

As part of a USDA Farm to School grant, Food and Nutrition Services of Sarasota County Schools, Florida is tracking the use of local foods in school meals. Florida-grown monthly averages October through December 2014 were 16%, 24%, and 35%, respectively. Compared to the same months in 2013, which were 8%, 13%, and 14%, their grant has allowed them to more than double the use of locally purchased produce.

GRANTEE ACTIVITY

# SCHOOL GARDENS

School gardens are a natural fit for farm to school programs as they provide a nearby, hands-on learning laboratory.

**48%** of grantees planned enhancements to existing garden programs.

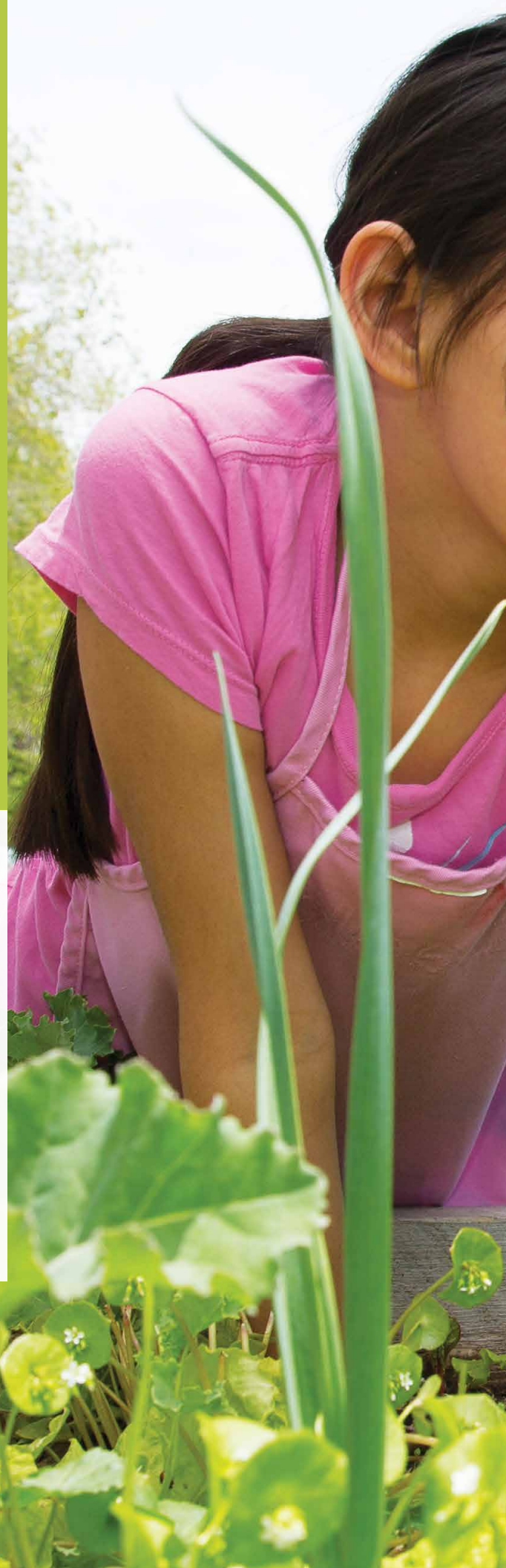
**31%** planned to start new garden programs.

**30%** planned to purchase garden supplies and/or equipment.

**12%** planned to install hoop houses or greenhouses.

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

In Tok, Alaska, with an average of 10 residents per square mile, the Alaska Gateway School District is using its USDA Farm to School grant to creatively integrate energy efficiency and gardening. Its new greenhouse is heated by waste heat from the school district's electrical co-generation plant that is fed by wood cut for fire abatement and mitigation. So far, the greenhouse has helped the district get half way to its goal of 20 percent (by cost) of the school meal program sourced locally. There is potential to further expand the greenhouse system.







GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

# ATHENS LAND TRUST, GA

Students from Clarke County School District interact with the Athens Land Trust's West Broad Market Garden as elementary, middle, and high school students. The organization's "Young Urban Farmers" program even engages high school students in growing fresh produce themselves and marketing it through business enterprises of their own design.







# CONCLUSIONS

**A**nalysis of the 221 funded proposals from the first 3 years of grantmaking suggests all farm to school activities described in HHFKA are being implemented through a wide variety of approaches by diverse grantee organizations. In pursuit of regional balance, grant awards have been made in 49 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Award rates (ratio of grant requests to awards) by FNS region vary from 18 to 28 percent.

Grantees planned many strategies for achieving the goal of increasing access to local foods in schools. For example, 50 percent of projects included expansion of menu options; 45 percent included training to help schools and districts procure local and regional foods; and 46 percent included training for food service staff about menu planning, meal preparation, and cooking with local and regional foods.

Grant projects served a high proportion of children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The overwhelming majority of grant awards (78 percent) went to schools or schools districts with free or reduced-price meal eligibility rates greater than 50 percent. Sixty five percent of grantees planned to incorporate experiential nutrition education activities that encourage children's participation in farm and garden-based agricultural

nd yellow carrots raw. I've only had orange and  
yellow carrots cooked! Thank you for coming!

Sincerely yours, Megan 😊



**Grantee: Farm Fresh Rhode Island**

The sentiment is clear in a letter from an elementary student to a farmer who visited her classroom.

education activities. Strong partnership data (83 percent planned to strengthen existing partnerships and 69 percent planned to develop new partnerships) suggest the potential for widespread collaboration between eligible schools, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, agricultural producer groups, and other community partners.

## APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL DATA TABLES

TABLE 1 | Dollar amount of grant requests and awards by grant type for FY 2013 - FY 2015

Grant Type	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Percent of Dollars Awarded by Type	Percent of Total Dollars Awarded
Planning	\$12,487,137	\$3,132,805	25%	21%
Implementation	\$36,336,670	\$6,264,236	17%	42%
Support Service	\$27,426,972	\$4,902,085	18%	33%
Training	\$2,117,182	\$776,645	37%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$78,367,963</b>	<b>\$15,075,773</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>100%</b>

TABLE 2 | Number of grant requests and awards by grant type for FY 2013 - FY 2015

Grant Type	Number of Applications	Number Awarded	Percent Awarded by Type	Percent of Total Grants Awarded
Planning	321	78	24%	35%
Implementation	389	65	17%	29%
Support Service	289	51	18%	23%
Training	68	27	40%	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**TABLE 3** | Grant Requests and Awards by Applicant Type in FY 2013 - FY 2015

Applicant Type	Number of Requests	Number of Awards	Award Rate by Applicant Type	Percent of Total Awards
Indian Tribal Organization	15	5	33%	2%
Agricultural Producers	26	2	8%	1%
Local or State Agency	122	20	16%	9%
Nonprofit Entity	364	62	17%	28%
School or School District	523	126	24%	57%
University, College, or Cooperative Extension System *	11	6	55%	3%
Other	6	0	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* These entities were eligible only for training awards offered in FY 2015.

**TABLE 4** | Percent of rural and urban schools or districts impacted by FY 2013 - FY 2015 grant projects

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
Percent of schools or districts impacted that are rural	40%	44%	36%	40%
Percent of schools or districts impacted that are urban	54%	51%	61%	56%

**TABLE 5** | Approximate number of schools involved and students reached for FY 2013 - FY 2015

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
Number of schools involved	3,200	4,200	4,900	12,300
Number of students reached	1.7 million	2.4 million	2.8 million	6.9 million

**TABLE 6** | Grant projects by free and reduced-price meal program eligibility rates for FY 2013 - FY 2015\*

Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	Total Percent of U.S. Students	Total Percent of Grant Projects	Total Number of Grant Projects**
0%-25%	25%	1%	2
26%-50%	29%	21%	38
51%-75%	26%	46%	84
76%-100%	20%	32%	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>183</b>

\* Information regarding percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals served by each grant project is only available from planning, implementation, and support service projects.

\*\* Information was not available from 11 projects.

**TABLE 7** | State-by-state breakdown of grant requests and awards for FY 2013 - FY 2015

State or Territory	FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015		Cumulative (FY13-15) Applications	Cumulative (FY13-15) Awards	Total % of Applications Funded
	Applications	Awards	Applications	Awards	Applications	Awards			
Delaware	2	1	1	1	2	1	5 (45)	3 (26-t)	60% (2)
D.C.	6	1	4	1	7	0	17 (21-t)	2 (36-t)	12% (46)
Maryland	6	1	3	0	3	0	12 (35-t)	1 (44-t)	8% (50-t)
New Jersey	7	1	5	3	4	0	16 (24-t)	4 (20-t)	25% (18-t)
Pennsylvania	14	2	14	1	16	3	44 (3)	6 (13-t)	14% (43-t)
Puerto Rico*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (54)	0 (54)	0% (52-t)
Virgin Islands	1	0	0	0	3	1	4 (46-t)	1 (44-t)	25% (18-t)
Virginia*	11	2	7	2	10	3	28 (10-t)	7 (7-t)	25% (18-t)
West Virginia*	1	0	3	0	2	1	6 (44)	1 (44-t)	17% (37-t)
<b>Mid-Atlantic</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>132 (5)</b>	<b>25 (6)</b>	<b>19% (4-t)</b>
Colorado*	10	3	13	3	5	1	28 (10-t)	7 (7-t)	25% (18-t)
Iowa	3	1	3	1	5	0	11 (37-t)	2 (36-t)	18% (35-t)
Kansas	3	0	5	1	1	1	9 (42)	2 (36-t)	22% (29)
Missouri	5	3	5	2	7	2	17 (21-t)	7 (7-t)	41% (3)
Montana	7	2	5	2	4	1	16 (24-t)	5 (15-t)	31% (10-t)
Nebraska	1	0	2	1	1	0	4 (46t)	1 (44-t)	25% (18-t)
North Dakota*	1	0	0	0	1	0	2 (52-t)	0 (52-t)	0% (52-t)
South Dakota*	4	1	3	1	3	1	10 (41)	3 (26-t)	30% (13-t)
Utah*	0	0	1	0	2	1	3 (49-t)	1 (44-t)	33% (8-t)
Wyoming	1	0	0	0	2	1	3 (49-t)	1 (44-t)	33% (8-t)
<b>Mountain Plains</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>103 (6)</b>	<b>29 (5)</b>	<b>28% (2)</b>
Illinois	10	1	9	1	10	1	29 (8-t)	3 (26-t)	10% (48)
Indiana	2	0	7	1	7	2	16 (24-t)	3 (26-t)	19% (32-t)
Michigan	11	2	9	1	8	2	28 (10-t)	5 (15-t)	18% (35-t)
Minnesota	15	2	11	2	10	2	36 (5)	6 (13-t)	17% (37-t)
Ohio	8	1	9	3	13	5	30 (7)	9 (3-t)	30% (13-t)
Wisconsin	14	2	16	3	13	3	43 (4)	8 (5-t)	19% (32-t)
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>182 (2)</b>	<b>34 (3)</b>	<b>19% (4-t)</b>
Connecticut	2	1	6	1	5	1	13 (31-t)	3 (26-t)	23% (27-t)
Maine	9	2	11	1	9	2	29 (8-t)	5 (15-t)	17% (37-t)
Massachusetts	12	3	5	2	9	2	26 (13-t)	7 (7-t)	27% (16-t)
New Hampshire	1	0	6	1	4	0	11 (37-t)	1 (44-t)	9% (49)
New York	23	3	26	2	22	5	71 (2)	10 (2)	14% (43-t)

Rhode Island	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4 (46-t)	1 (44-t)	25% (18-t)
Vermont	3	1	5	1	4	1	12 (35-t)	3 (26-t)	25% (18-t)		
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>166 (3)</b>	<b>30 (4)</b>	<b>18% (6-t)</b>		
Alabama*	3	0	2	1	3	1	8 (43)	2 (36-t)	25% (18-t)		
Florida	11	0	8	2	6	0	25 (15-t)	2 (36-t)	8% (50-t)		
Georgia*	14	3	7	2	12	2	33 (6)	7 (7-t)	21% (30-t)		
Kentucky*	11	2	6	2	9	5	26 (13-t)	9 (3-t)	35% (7)		
Mississippi*	3	1	4	2	6	1	13 (31-t)	4 (20-t)	31% (12)		
North Carolina*	8	3	5	2	8	3	21 (19)	8 (5-t)	38% (4-t)		
South Carolina*	6	1	3	1	4	1	13 (31-t)	3 (26-t)	23% (27-t)		
Tennessee*	6	1	5	0	4	1	15 (29)	2 (36-t)	13% (45)		
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>154 (4)</b>	<b>37 (2)</b>	<b>24% (3)</b>		
Arkansas*	5	2	4	1	4	2	13 (31-t)	5 (15-t)	38% (4-t)		
Louisiana*	2	0	2	2	7	2	11 (37-t)	4 (20-t)	36% (6)		
New Mexico*	6	2	5	1	5	2	16 (24-t)	5 (15-t)	31% (10-t)		
Oklahoma*	6	1	6	2	5	1	17 (21-t)	4 (20-t)	24% (26)		
Texas*	6	1	7	1	3	1	16 (24-t)	3 (26-t)	19% (32-t)		
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>73 (7)</b>	<b>21 (7)</b>	<b>29% (1)</b>		
Alaska*	2	0	4	1	5	2	11 (37-t)	3 (26-t)	27% (16-t)		
Arizona*	4	1	13	2	7	1	24 (18)	4 (20-t)	17% (37-t)		
California	49	6	43	6	42	8	134 (1)	20 (1)	15% (42)		
Guam	0	0	0	0	2	0	2 (52-t)	0 (52-t)	0% (52-t)		
Hawaii	7	1	6	0	6	1	19 (20)	2 (36-t)	11% (47)		
Idaho	1	1	0	0	2	1	3 (49-t)	2 (36-t)	67% (1)		
Nevada*	2	1	8	1	4	1	14 (30)	3 (26-t)	21% (30-t)		
Oregon	11	2	8	1	6	1	25 (15-t)	4 (20-t)	16% (41)		
Washington	8	3	11	2	6	2	25 (15-t)	7 (7-t)	28% (15)		
<b>Western</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>257 (1)</b>	<b>45 (1)</b>	<b>18% (6-t)</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>21%</b>		

\* A State that includes StrikeForce counties.



**TABLE 8** | Details of funding by state and region for FY 2013 - 2015

State or Territory	FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015		FY 2013-15		FY 2013-15 % of Total Funds Distributed	FY 2013-15 \$ Distributed (Rank)
	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded		
Delaware	\$197,531	\$99,990	\$44,967	\$38,126	\$166,600	\$100,000	\$409,097	\$238,116	1.6%	23
D.C.	\$497,134	\$99,998	\$341,026	\$96,996	\$569,384	\$0	\$1,407,544	\$196,994	1.3%	31
Maryland	\$491,415	\$93,750	\$232,245	\$0	\$270,390	\$0	\$994,050	\$93,750	0.6%	44
New Jersey	\$423,224	\$44,449	\$411,299	\$133,124	\$305,880	\$0	\$1,140,403	\$177,573	1.2%	35
Pennsylvania	\$1,063,536	\$70,918	\$1,075,363	\$95,500	\$1,101,636	\$229,983	\$3,155,262	\$396,401	2.6%	12
Puerto Rico*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	52-t
Virgin Islands	\$44,899	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$166,138	\$21,698	\$211,037	\$21,698	0.1%	50
Virginia*	\$798,810	\$89,481	\$493,575	\$132,139	\$626,746	\$163,344	\$1,919,131	\$384,964	2.6%	16
West Virginia*	\$100,000	\$0	\$293,551	\$0	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$593,551	\$100,000	0.7%	41
Mid-Atlantic	\$3,616,548	\$498,586	\$2,892,025	\$495,885	\$3,321,501	\$615,025	\$9,830,074	\$1,609,496	10.7%	6
Colorado*	\$655,773	\$228,766	\$1,100,363	\$295,355	\$384,706	\$97,683	\$2,140,833	\$621,804	4.1%	4
Iowa	\$291,189	\$100,000	\$295,176	\$95,600	\$340,504	\$0	\$926,869	\$195,600	1.3%	33
Kansas	\$299,943	\$0	\$438,892	\$100,000	\$24,990	\$24,990	\$763,825	\$124,990	0.8%	40
Missouri	\$314,645	\$156,191	\$327,687	\$83,243	\$637,106	\$124,855	\$1,179,438	\$364,289	2.4%	18
Montana	\$591,986	\$127,998	\$491,507	\$193,706	\$262,946	\$50,000	\$1,346,439	\$371,704	2.5%	17
Nebraska	\$99,729	\$0	\$145,000	\$99,600	\$44,698	\$0	\$289,427	\$99,600	0.7%	42
North Dakota#	\$51,241	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$151,241	\$0	0.0%	52-t
South Dakota*	\$204,790	\$39,436	\$185,932	\$21,631	\$216,644	\$99,189	\$607,366	\$160,256	1.1%	37
Utah*	\$0	\$0	\$87,436	\$0	\$115,800	\$17,200	\$203,236	\$17,200	0.1%	51
Wyoming	\$94,645	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$130,000	\$65,000	\$224,645	\$65,000	0.4%	47
Mountain Plains	\$2,603,941	\$652,391	\$3,071,984	\$889,135	\$2,157,394	\$478,917	\$7,833,319	\$2,020,443	13.4%	5
Illinois	\$633,113	\$100,000	\$540,586	\$36,562	\$639,975	\$24,929	\$1,813,674	\$161,491	1.1%	36
Indiana	\$139,295	\$0	\$485,736	\$100,000	\$405,316	\$150,000	\$1,030,347	\$250,000	1.7%	22
Michigan	\$739,528	\$144,900	\$703,360	\$45,000	\$734,266	\$195,344	\$2,177,154	\$385,244	2.6%	15
Minnesota	\$995,079	\$133,750	\$804,149	\$111,454	\$821,568	\$187,566	\$2,620,796	\$432,770	2.9%	11
Ohio	\$529,200	\$45,000	\$581,806	\$163,882	\$940,397	\$259,711	\$2,051,403	\$468,593	3.1%	9
Wisconsin	\$989,969	\$134,953	\$1,275,550	\$259,797	\$1,102,444	\$294,596	\$3,367,963	\$689,346	4.6%	2
Midwest	\$4,026,182	\$558,603	\$4,391,188	\$716,695	\$4,643,966	\$1,112,147	\$13,061,336	\$2,387,445	15.8%	3
Connecticut	\$191,634	\$98,100	\$520,337	\$100,000	\$308,223	\$14,613	\$1,020,194	\$212,713	1.4%	28
Maine	\$751,640	\$144,014	\$877,249	\$100,000	\$732,419	\$144,213	\$2,361,308	\$388,227	2.6%	14
Massachusetts	\$772,568	\$226,897	\$344,665	\$144,998	\$691,524	\$150,000	\$1,708,756	\$521,894	3.5%	8
New Hampshire	\$67,633	\$0	\$448,571	\$30,737	\$319,488	\$0	\$835,691	\$30,737	0.2%	49
New York	\$1,634,626	\$210,398	\$2,034,917	\$199,997	\$1,455,842	\$254,443	\$5,125,385	\$664,838	4.4%	3
Rhode Island	\$100,000	\$0	\$210,838	\$91,917	\$0	\$0	\$310,838	\$91,917	0.6%	45
Vermont	\$244,859	\$91,712	\$492,588	\$91,712	\$368,209	\$99,999	\$1,105,656	\$283,423	1.9%	21

Mountain Plains	\$2,603,941	\$652,391	\$3,071,984	\$889,135	\$2,157,394	\$478,917	\$7,833,319	\$2,020,443	13.4%	5
Illinois	\$633,113	\$100,000	\$540,586	\$36,562	\$639,975	\$24,929	\$1,813,674	\$161,491	1.1%	36
Indiana	\$139,295	\$0	\$485,736	\$100,000	\$405,316	\$150,000	\$1,030,347	\$250,000	1.7%	22
Michigan	\$739,528	\$144,900	\$703,360	\$45,000	\$734,266	\$195,344	\$2,177,154	\$385,244	2.6%	15
Minnesota	\$995,079	\$133,750	\$804,149	\$111,454	\$821,568	\$187,566	\$2,620,796	\$432,770	2.9%	11
Ohio	\$529,200	\$45,000	\$581,806	\$163,882	\$940,397	\$259,711	\$2,051,403	\$468,593	3.1%	9
Wisconsin	\$989,969	\$134,953	\$1,275,550	\$259,797	\$1,102,444	\$294,596	\$3,367,963	\$689,346	4.6%	2
Midwest	\$4,026,182	\$558,603	\$4,391,188	\$716,695	\$4,643,966	\$1,112,147	\$13,061,336	\$2,387,445	15.8%	3
Connecticut	\$191,634	\$98,100	\$520,337	\$100,000	\$308,223	\$14,613	\$1,020,194	\$212,713	1.4%	28
Maine	\$751,640	\$144,014	\$877,249	\$100,000	\$732,419	\$144,213	\$2,361,308	\$388,227	2.6%	14
Massachusetts	\$772,568	\$226,897	\$344,665	\$144,998	\$591,524	\$150,000	\$1,708,756	\$521,894	3.5%	8
New Hampshire	\$67,633	\$0	\$448,571	\$30,737	\$319,488	\$0	\$835,691	\$30,737	0.2%	49
New York	\$1,634,626	\$210,398	\$2,034,917	\$199,997	\$1,455,842	\$254,443	\$5,125,385	\$664,838	4.4%	3
Rhode Island	\$100,000	\$0	\$210,838	\$91,917	\$0	\$0	\$310,838	\$91,917	0.6%	45
Vermont	\$244,859	\$91,712	\$492,588	\$91,712	\$368,209	\$99,999	\$1,105,656	\$283,423	1.9%	21
Northeast	\$3,762,959	\$771,121	\$4,929,164	\$759,361	\$3,775,705	\$663,268	\$12,467,828	\$2,193,750	14.6%	4
Alabama*	\$245,000	\$0	\$175,000	\$100,000	\$220,000	\$100,000	\$640,000	\$200,000	1.3%	30
Florida	\$802,901	\$0	\$588,935	\$145,000	\$543,577	\$0	\$1,935,413	\$145,000	1.0%	38
Georgia*	\$1,079,504	\$230,667	\$765,182	\$199,700	\$803,291	\$139,947	\$2,647,977	\$570,314	3.8%	6
Kentucky*	\$825,005	\$145,000	\$359,689	\$78,580	\$637,957	\$312,707	\$1,722,651	\$536,287	3.6%	7
Mississippi*	\$183,146	\$38,145	\$308,215	\$133,183	\$378,263	\$25,000	\$869,624	\$196,328	1.3%	32
North Carolina*	\$592,039	\$240,381	\$232,282	\$159,356	\$450,124	\$221,778	\$1,274,445	\$621,515	4.1%	5
South Carolina*	\$376,267	\$100,000	\$235,545	\$99,993	\$323,288	\$20,588	\$935,100	\$220,581	1.5%	25
Tennessee*	\$441,686	\$40,286	\$240,110	\$0	\$93,373	\$40,000	\$775,169	\$80,286	0.5%	46
Southeast	\$4,545,547	\$794,479	\$2,904,958	\$915,812	\$3,349,873	\$860,020	\$10,800,378	\$2,570,311	17.0%	2
Arkansas*	\$372,412	\$144,058	\$215,800	\$32,721	\$298,657	\$149,918	\$886,869	\$326,697	2.2%	19
Louisiana*	\$200,000	\$0	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$292,245	\$69,993	\$637,245	\$214,993	1.4%	26
New Mexico*	\$422,250	\$137,079	\$417,600	\$99,553	\$330,158	\$83,873	\$1,170,008	\$320,505	2.1%	20
Oklahoma*	\$620,480	\$99,994	\$434,313	\$89,847	\$265,788	\$41,535	\$1,320,581	\$231,376	1.5%	24
Texas*	\$373,372	\$43,587	\$409,291	\$44,232	\$248,100	\$100,000	\$1,030,763	\$187,819	1.2%	34
Southwest	\$1,988,514	\$424,718	\$1,622,004	\$411,353	\$1,434,948	\$445,319	\$5,045,466	\$1,281,390	8.5%	7
Alaska*	\$145,000	\$0	\$379,876	\$45,000	\$273,147	\$50,000	\$798,023	\$95,000	0.6%	43
Arizona*	\$337,010	\$98,107	\$651,116	\$88,396	\$486,944	\$25,000	\$1,475,069	\$211,503	1.4%	29
California	\$3,552,575	\$335,929	\$3,669,476	\$476,172	\$3,400,446	\$619,657	\$10,622,497	\$1,431,758	9.5%	1
Guam#	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$123,261	\$0	\$123,261	\$0	0.0%	52-t
Hawaii	\$688,058	\$44,800	\$254,850	\$0	\$478,177	\$99,991	\$1,391,085	\$144,791	1.0%	39
Idaho	\$33,750	\$40,670	\$0	\$0	\$87,892	\$18,028	\$121,642	\$58,698	0.4%	48
Nevada*	\$223,564	\$90,720	\$513,700	\$100,000	\$188,594	\$22,992	\$925,858	\$213,712	1.4%	27
Oregon	\$902,733	\$192,205	\$695,020	\$99,507	\$389,886	\$99,112	\$1,987,640	\$390,824	2.6%	13
Washington	\$609,982	\$236,538	\$761,106	\$116,700	\$513,398	\$113,414	\$1,884,486	\$466,652	3.1%	10
Western	\$6,462,672	\$1,038,969	\$6,925,145	\$925,774	\$5,941,746	\$1,048,194	\$19,329,563	\$3,012,937	20.0%	1
Total	\$27,006,364	\$4,738,867	\$26,736,467	\$5,114,016	\$24,625,133	\$5,222,890	\$78,367,964	\$15,075,773	100.0%	

\* A State that includes StrikeForce counties.

# Did not receive funds through the USDA Farm to School Grant Program during FY 2013, FY 2014, or FY 2015.

## APPENDIX B – TRAINING GRANTS

Training grants are intended to support State, regional, and national trainings that provide technical assistance in the area of local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and/or integration of agriculture-based curriculum. Training grants were supported in FY 2015 using discretionary program funds and were open to all interested parties. Table 9 summarizes training grant requests and awards in FY 2015.

TABLE 9 | Training grant requests and awards in FY 2015

Training Grant Type	Number of Applications	Number of Awards	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Percent Awarded	Percent of Dollars Awarded	Percent of Total Training Grants Awarded	Percent of Total Training Dollars Awarded
National	8	2	\$393,987	\$99,987	25%	25%	7%	13%
Regional	22	5	\$933,959	\$228,287	23%	24%	19%	29%
State	38	20	\$789,237	\$448,372	53%	57%	74%	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$2,117,182</b>	<b>\$776,646</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### PROGRAM IN ACTION

In Billings, Montana, the Inter-tribal Agriculture Council will promote farm to school efforts in American Indian communities by including expanded farm to school training components in their annual membership meeting. Training sessions and resources will target food service professionals and leaders of farm to school programs, and direct technical assistance will also be available. This meeting draws hundreds of tribal food producers, agricultural professionals, and Native youth from across the Nation. The event will include an innovative multimedia youth project to engage high school students in the farm to school conversation and allow them to share their unique perspectives on food and agriculture with peers and food service professionals. Follow up regional meetings will supplement this national event.



United States Department of Agriculture