



Fiscal Year 2022 Description of Funded Projects Farm to Institution Project Type

Farm to Institution broadly refers to connecting local or regional producers, including farmers and ranchers, processors, and intermediaries selling local and regional foods to establishments where people routinely eat meals outside of home, such as schools and early childcare centers, colleges and universities, hospitals, corporate cafeterias, and government agencies and to vendors that sell to these establishments.

This document identifies FY 22 Farm to Institution Project Type funded projects. This document may not be inclusive of all FY22 awarded projects that carried out Farm to Institution activities as part of their project. Click on a state abbreviation in the chart below to jump to Farm to Institution projects in the [respective state](#).

State	Recipient	Project Name
CA	Siskiyou County Economic Development Council	Connecting Siskiyou’s Small Farms and Institutions
CO	Nourish Colorado	Collaborative Models and Standardizing Metrics for Local Purchasing among Rural Institutions Project (CMSM Project)
IA	Practical Farmers of Iowa	Strengthening & Expanding Iowa’s Food Hubs to Develop & Retain New Institutional Markets
KY	Kentucky Horticulture Council	Grow Up! Expanding Kentucky's regional produce market opportunities
MA	Third Sector New England, Inc.	Rooted in Community: A localized approach to growing the farm to institution movement in New England
MI	Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities Inc	Resilient Relationships, Resilient Supply
OH	Cuyahoga County Board of Health	Feed Our Future: Planning, Partnerships and Projects to Increase Local Food Spending
VA	Health Care Without Harm	Oregon Farm to Institution Collaborative (OFIC)

For more information, please visit the grant program’s website:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp>.

NOTE: The below project descriptions were provided by the grant recipients.

California

Recipient: Siskiyou County Economic Development Council, Yreka, CA

District: CA-001

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$353,442

Match Amount: \$118,548

Total Project Amount: \$471,990

Connecting Siskiyou's Small Farms and Institutions

The agricultural economic sector in Siskiyou County is facing a dire crisis due to persistent drought, year-over-year wildfires, and environmental pressures faced by small farms. This, paired with major market shifts, is culminating in the urgent decision for small farms across Siskiyou to innovate or exit. Siskiyou Economic Development Council (SEDC) is pairing with key partners throughout Siskiyou and the greater region to launch an initiative to expand market opportunities for Siskiyou producers. These efforts will create opportunities for farms to diversify and create business resiliency in the face of catastrophe.

Connecting Siskiyou's Small Farms and Institutions will establish a critical network of local farms and regional institutional food buyers throughout Siskiyou County and its bordering communities. Through one-on-one technical assistance, SEDC will work to develop business plans and strategies that will connect key stakeholders and identify gaps in the necessary infrastructure to cultivate a thriving farm-to-institution economy.

This project will provide technical assistance to producers to develop capacity, skill, and scale to address the institutional markets and will cultivate a strong foundation for ongoing connections between buyers and small farms. This program will build upon the SEDC's work in the agriculture sector and community food system and will leverage existing relationships with agricultural producers, support organizations, and expert business consultants.

This program will strengthen the institutional local food system, identify gaps in infrastructure and supply chain partners, and connect local small farms to viable new markets to create long-term sustainability for one of Siskiyou's most important economic sectors.

Colorado

Recipient: Nourish Colorado, Denver, CO

District: CO-001

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$ 998,758

Match Amount: \$ 250,000

Total Project Amount: \$1,248,758

Collaborative Models and Standardizing Metrics for Local Purchasing among Rural Institutions Project (CMSM Project)

The CMSM project aims to infuse more resources and cooperation among institutions, farmers, and food hubs so they can build their capacity and networks. The goal of the project is to develop baseline local procurement data and metrics and create and test a model for collaborative purchasing in southeastern Colorado. This will allow us to strengthen partnerships in the region, provide more training and technical assistance support, agricultural producer support, evaluation support, and build the overall capacity of the program to promote farm to institution programs in southeast Colorado and build a model that can be replicated in other regions of Colorado.

The partnership will include Nourish Colorado, which will manage the overall project, the Colorado Departments of Education (CDE), Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), and Human Services (CDHS), as the providers of publicly funded meal programs like K12 school lunches, early childhood education (ECE) meals, and Older Adult (OA) Meal Programs to assist us with developing relationships with institutional partners. We are partnering with Ogallala Commons to assist with strengthening partnerships with farmers and producers in southeastern Colorado, as well as Colorado State University (CSU) Food Systems Institute for Engagement to assist with engagement and evaluation. Each partner will have a role in each focus area. Additionally, the project will include one to two convenings of all partners every year of the project to discuss initial goals, data collection, and next steps.

Iowa

Recipient: Practical Farmers of Iowa, Ames, IA

District: IA-004

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$861,356

Match Amount: \$227,080

Total Project Amount: \$1,088,436

Strengthening & Expanding Iowa's Food Hubs to Develop & Retain New Institutional Markets

This project will preserve and significantly scale up the institutional markets that food hubs have developed in Iowa. This project will expand food hub capacity to capture more institutional sales, onboard new farmers, and grow sales territory to equitably serve more of the state. The work will also leverage upcoming, short-term institutional purchasing incentives to convert new institutions to permanent local food customers, thereby transforming the scale of farm-to-institution in Iowa. A centralized food hub, FarmTable Procurement & Delivery, provides aggregation, storage and delivery

services across Iowa's food hub network, and in turn to farmers and markets across Iowa, and the partnership shares a commitment to transitioning the FarmTable food hub to a non-profit and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

As a support partner with a strong state-wide farmer network, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) will provide key outreach and education for farmers to learn about food hubs and become food hub vendors. PFI will also administer and evaluate this project. Iowa Valley RC&D will facilitate continued spaces for food hubs to collaborate with each other, while key experts at Kitchen Table Consultants will optimize food hub KPIs and provide business management coaching. Food Hub partners will maximize their added capacity made possible by this project, along with technical assistance, to add more farmer vendors, institutional customers, and territory to their individual businesses and expand the footprint of farm-to-institution in Iowa.

Kentucky

Recipient: Kentucky Horticulture Council, Inc, Lexington, KY

District: KY-006

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$689,908

Match Amount: \$225,224

Total Project Amount: \$915,132

Grow Up! Expanding Kentucky's regional produce market opportunities

Grow Up! Expanding Kentucky's regional produce market opportunities is an integrated systems approach that will expand Kentucky's regional food system impact by providing technical assistance focused on production, processing, distribution, and consumption of produce crops. The project will leverage a public-private partner network to increase production and market literacy while reducing known production and market barriers to support farms, businesses, and entrepreneurs that grow, store, process, market, and distribute produce locally and regionally. With focus and intentionality, the multi-disciplinary project team will collectively address the needs of at least 2,500 producers, 10 distribution partners, 43 institutional buyers, and 75,000 consumers of food products, with resulting system benefits including increased opportunities across market channels, economic improvement, job creation, enhanced ecosystem services, and expanded access to healthy food.

Massachusetts

Recipient: Third Sector New England, Inc., Boston, MA

District: MA-007

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$968,375

Match Amount: \$369,500

Total Project Amount: \$1,337,875

Rooted in Community: A localized approach to growing the farm to institution movement in New England

This project invests in strengthening regional, equitable farm to institution (FTI) relationships and value chains in three New England Communities, which in coordination will lead to greater regional and values-based food procurement across New England while shifting institutional power dynamics around race. Springfield, MA; New Haven, CT; and Cumberland County, ME will form a Cohort, represented by three community-based organizations—Springfield Food Policy Council, Cumberland County Food Security Council, City of New Haven Food System Policy Division—who are already driving food systems change at the local level. Each of the community organizations will receive subawards to carry out their local organizing, community engagement, and value chain coordination activities. The partnership will be supported by three state departments of agriculture, who will connect partners to additional collaborators and technical assistance. Farm to Institution New England, a regional network backbone organization, will provide project coordination, connect the cohort with regional partners, resources, and training, and share stories and strategies developed in each community with the broader network. We believe that strong, inter-woven and community-driven foundations of FTI work lead to sustainable regional impact for New England producers and residents who eat at institutions.

Michigan

Recipient: Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities Inc, Traverse City, MI

District: MI-001

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$891,100

Match Amount: \$247,360

Total Project Amount: \$1,138,460

Resilient Relationships, Resilient Supply

Resilient Relationships, Resilient Supply builds upon established partnerships to strengthen the food system in lower Michigan's Western Lakeshore Region to increase sales and consumption of locally grown foods from small and mid-sized producers to schools, early childcare, and education (ECE) centers and emergency food providers. The project increases community nutrition security by increasing access to healthy, local food for low-income children, families, and citizens. We will support over 34 stakeholder partners in filling gaps they have identified in infrastructure and supply chains to help markets grow. We will leverage Michigan's innovative state program, 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms, currently funded at \$4.5 million, increasing local food purchasing power for schools, ECE

centers, and eligible organizations feeding children via USDA child nutrition programs. Partners will leverage proven regional farm to food pantry initiatives that have grown in response to COVID-19. Lead partners—Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, the principal of a food processing association, a supply chain logistics expert, and a local foods marketing enterprise with vast farmer connections—will convene 5 Peer Learning Networks (PLNs) and provide farm to institution support and technical assistance to create stronger collaborations among 5 key stakeholder groups: producers, distributors, processors/aggregators, schools/Early Care and Education (ECE) centers, and emergency food providers (EFP). The PLNs will provide the chance to network, identify needs, find opportunities and solutions, and build relationships. PLN members will attend Learning Journeys to PLN member sites to share best practices. They will have scholarships available to 5 key Michigan-based food systems conferences to build knowledge and gain professional development.

Through technical assistance and coordinated efforts, we aim to increase capacity, develop new market opportunities for producers to expand local and regional food business enterprises, and promote food safety practices to ensure a safe and productive local and regional food system. The 501,620 expected beneficiaries of this project include students in schools and ECE centers participating in 10 Cents a Meal, families and low-income individuals utilizing EFPs, small and mid-size farmers, processors, aggregators, distributors, and businesses along the value-added supply chain across the 16-county project region. We expect that our efforts in bringing together and engaging stakeholders of the food supply chain will lead to increased resilience and efficacy of work within the regional food system of Michigan's Western Lakeshore region.

Ohio

Recipient: Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Parma, OH

District: OH-016

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$700,000

Match Amount: \$210,265

Total Project Amount: \$910,265

Feed Our Future: Planning, Partnerships and Projects to Increase Local Food Spending

This project leverages local and regional partnerships to advance the collaborations necessary to build a regionally innovative and responsive farm to school (F2S) initiative that serves school-aged children across Northern Ohio. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) serves as the backbone organization for Feed Our Future (FOF): Local Foods for Growing Minds, convening individuals and stakeholders throughout Ohio to advance the policy, environmental, and systems changes needed to drive systemic change and build a more resilient food system. The project goals are to strengthen the mid-tier value chain and increase local and regional food procurement by K-12 school districts. The key objectives of this partnership are to 1) strengthen the mid-tier value chain to effectively serve K-12 school systems by increasing the number of producers in the supply chain; 2) increase local food purchasing by K-12 school systems through the execution of a farm to school bid; 3) increase the knowledge and skills of school meal program staff to menu, serve, and teach about local foods through the creation of two new curriculums; and 4) expand organizational capacity to support regional local food system efforts, planning, partnership, and advocacy by hiring an equity consultant, facilitating

ongoing meetings of the Feed Our Future Leadership Council, and engaging in new and enhancing existing partnerships to generate a regional farm to school strategic plan.

Virginia

Recipient: Health Care Without Harm, Reston, VA (Project is in Oregon)

District: VA-011

Project Type: Farm to Institution

Award Amount: \$999,524

Match Amount: \$412,620

Total Project Amount: \$1,412,144

Oregon Farm to Institution Collaborative (OFIC)

For more than a decade, the Farm to Institution (F2I) movement in Oregon has made significant strides in engaging and coordinating efforts of institutional purchasers, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and supply chain producers and processors. While successes have helped create lasting change in many institutions, the impact of these resources and partnerships has largely been focused on the Portland Metro Region. While almost 100,000 meals per day are served in institutions in the Portland area, there are more than twice as many meals served in institutions throughout the State.

The purpose of this project is to leverage existing proofs of concept in farm to institution (F2I) and take them to scale at a state level. F2I will be catalyzed in different regions and rural areas of Oregon by establishing the Oregon Farm to Institution Collaborative (OFIC).

This project will benefit Oregon producers and processors through improved value chain coordination and connections to new institutional markets, thus providing institutions with more options and streamlined processes to purchase locally and meet values-based purchasing goals. Additionally, the project will benefit communities served by institutions throughout Oregon, like students, patients, and state employees, who will have improved access to healthy, locally grown, and produced food.