

The Vermont Community Foundation's Food and Farm Initiative supports farmers and others who want to help families put nutritious, local food on the table regardless of where they live or what they earn.

The Food and Farm Initiative is beginning in Vermont schools, where close to 40% of children qualify for free and reduced lunch. It will bring more local food to their cafeterias and knowledge to their classrooms. The following inaugural grants launch the Foundation's five-year focus on helping more Vermonters access more local food.

Harvest of the Month Campaign: Linking the Cafeteria, Classroom, and Community

Lead Organization: Green Mountain Farm to School (GMFTS) **Partner Organizations:** Post Oil Solutions, VT FEED
Grant Amount: \$26,750

Grant Impact: 70 schools and 30 community sites in Bennington, Essex, Franklin, Orleans, and Windham Counties
This project will launch a Harvest of the Month Campaign to bring together the classroom, cafeteria, and community to increase knowledge of, access to, and preference for local foods.

Linking the 3 "C's" of Farm to School

Lead Organization: VT FEED **Partner Organizations:** Shelburne Farms, Food Works at Two Rivers Center, NOFA VT
Grant Amount: \$63,107 **Grant Impact:** Statewide

VT FEED and partners will focus on three strategic areas: professional development for teachers and school food service directors; research and evaluation on how local food is being used in cafeterias and classrooms; and promoting communication among statewide FTS stakeholders to reach the shared goal of getting FTS in every community in Vermont.

Increasing Institutional Demand for Local Food: Building Farm to Institution Capacity

Lead Organization: Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) **Partner Organizations:** NOFA VT, Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN), Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL)
Grant Amount: \$75,000 **Grant Impact:** Statewide

VHCB and its partners will develop a statewide Farm to Institution community: a network of professionals that will help give farmers the tools they need to sell to institutions, develop best practices, and increase local food purchasing by institutions.

The School Cafeteria: Increasing Free Lunch Eligibility and Food Service Training

Lead Organization: Hunger Free Vermont **Partner Organizations:** VT FEED, School Nutrition Association
Grant Amount: \$75,000 **Grant Impact:** Statewide

This grant will support a two-year effort to promote the passage of a state law that will make Vermont the first state in the country to expand eligibility for free school lunch programs to include all low-income children. The grant will also provide training for school food service directors to help them implement the new federal nutrition requirements for schools.

Equitable Food Buying Clubs: Broadening Demand for Local Food

Lead Organization: Post Oil Solutions **Partner Organizations:** School Communities, Community Health Team of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Vermont Farm to School Network
Grant Amount: \$34,650 **Grant Impact:** Five schools in Windham County

This grant will support the creation of Equitable Food Buying Clubs at five Vermont schools. The Buying Clubs will increase interest in and skills related to purchasing, preparing and consuming locally-produced foods.

Vermont Farm to Plate Network

Lead Organization: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
Grant Amount: \$35,000 **Grant Impact:** Statewide

The Farm to Plate Network is a self-governing collaborative made up of farms, food production businesses, specialty food producers, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, capital providers and government working together to increase economic development and jobs in Vermont's food and farm sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters. This effort is a critical resource for farm-to-school programming as well as the broader goals of the Food and Farm Initiative.