

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program report FY 22-23



January 2023



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## Executive Summary

Established under P.A. 21-2, S. 364 (Effective July 1, 2021), the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant (CTG4CTK Grant) is administered by the CT Department of Agriculture (DoAg) through a combination of financial and technical assistance to help develop farm-to-school programs to:

- increase the availability of local foods in child nutrition programs,
- allow educators to use hands-on educational techniques to teach students about nutrition and farm-to-school connections,
- sustain relationships with local farmers and producers,
- enrich the educational experience of students, and
- improve the health of children in the state and enhance the state's economy.

**Background:** Initial funding was allocated to the grant program in Public Act 21-2, utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding at \$250,000 in FY 22 and \$250,000 in FY 23. Public Act 22-118 increased the initial FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act allocation from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

**Process:** DoAg administered the grant funds across two funding rounds in FY 22 and FY 23. Applicants were able to apply for up to \$24,999 for projects up to 18 months in length.

The first round of projects has contracts from April 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023. The second round of projects will have contracts from February 1, 2023 - July 30, 2024.

**Results and Conclusion:** Across the two grant rounds, DoAg received 131 applications requesting in a total of \$1,984,710 in funds. In consultation with the advisory board, the agency awarded funds to 46 projects totaling \$677,176. The remainder of the funds, \$72,824, was reserved to cover the agency's administrative costs.

Grant funded projects are expected to reach approximately 7,620 students in FY2022, with FY2023 project data pending (based on award date of December 22, 2022). Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant efforts have included support for twenty-three programs in Alliance Districts and nine school readiness programs.

Over the two rounds of grant applications, the CTG4CTK program has been one of DoAg's most highly applied to programs. This grant opportunity enhances the Farm to School landscape in the state and provides needed capital for agriculture and nutrition-based K-12 and Early Childcare projects.

## **Grant Overview**

### **Eligibility**

The following entities are eligible to apply for the CTG4CTK Grant:

- 1) Local or regional boards of education
- 2) Regional educational service centers
- 3) A cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general statutes
- 4) Childcare centers, group childcare homes and family childcare homes as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes
- 5) Any organization or entity administering or assisting in the development of a farm-to-school program

### **Awarding Priorities**

- 1) Those entities located in alliance districts, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, or who are providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes.
- 2) Those who demonstrate broad commitment from school administrators, school nutrition professionals, educators, and community stakeholders.

### **History**

Establishing a state-wide Farm to School grant program has long been a desire of the [CT Farm to School Collaborative \(CTFTSC\)](#), a statewide Farm to School network of which CT DoAg is a member along with the State Department of Education and the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut among many others. The two-year grant program is funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars at an annual allocation of \$250,000, with a provision allowing DoAg to use a portion to cover incurred administrative costs. In the 2021 legislative session, an additional \$250,000 was allocated to the program.

A kickoff event to celebrate and announce the grant program was held at New Britain's Gaffney Elementary in October 2021 and saw a wide attendance from policymakers, press, and school staff.



*“Farm to School programming offers so many opportunities in Connecticut for producers, youth, educators, and the community,” said Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. “Teaching students about nutrition and where their food comes from, connecting them with local farmers and embracing learning about different aspects of the agriculture sector will not only enhance their education, but will shape future generations with an interest in the field. I want to thank everyone who*

*worked on the CT Grown for CT Kids Grants program and to Connecticut’s school food service and educators who work tirelessly every day to feed our youth.”*

## **FY 2022 Grant Round**

DoAg convened a statutorily authorized advisory board comprised of 12 representatives. Per statute, “The advisory committee shall consist of the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, and individuals representing stakeholder groups that reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the state, selected by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The advisory committee shall (1) assist the department in reviewing applications and awarding grants under this section, and (2) provide technical assistance to grant recipients in the development and implementation of farm-to-school programs. “

### **Advisory Board Members FY 22**

1. Department of Public Health, Marcia Pessolano
2. Office of Early Childhood, Kimberly Paluska
3. CT State Department of Education, Monica Pacheco
4. CT Association of Boards of Education, Becky Tyrell and Janice Cupee
5. CT Education Association, Lisa Thomas
6. FoodCorps, Dawn Crayco
7. New Britain Roots, Joey Listro
8. NW CT Food Hub, Kay Carroll
9. School Nutrition Association of CT (SNACT), Erica Biagetti and Denise DiMare; and
10. UConn Extension, Shannon Raider-Ginsburg.

The application to submit proposals for the FY 22 CTG4CTKG was open October 15, 2021 through December 20, 2021. Applicants could apply for up to \$24,999. DoAg, with support from

CTG4CTK Advisory Committee, and the CTFTSC, established four categories that applicants could apply under.

- Infrastructure (processing equipment and school gardens)
- Experiential Learning (Student curriculum development, staff professional development, and farm field trips)
- Farm to School Planning
- CT Grown Pilot Purchasing Program

A webinar was held on November 9, 2021, for interested applicants to hear about the grant purpose, application requirements, and to ask questions. There were 130 registrants for the webinar.

Applicants were able to receive technical assistance with writing their proposals from Jiff Martin, Sustainable Food System Educator at UConn Extension and key partner in CT Farm to School Initiatives. Jiff held formal coaching sessions with 45 unique potential applicants through individual and group sessions based on each grant category.

DoAg received a total of **59** complete applications, **totaling \$962,425 in requested funds**. Applications spanned all four categories from CT public schools, Early Childhood Education Centers (ECEC), non-profits, and small businesses partnering with schools, farmers, and boards of education.

**FY 22: 59 Applications Received Totaling over \$962,000 in Requests**

**Fiscal year 2022 Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant awardees:**

**14** proposals were funded in FY 2022, totaling \$225,007 in grant funds.

**11** of the funded projects were from Alliance Districts or from an Early Childhood Center that was a School Readiness Provider.

- Bristol Child Development Center: Little Chefs \$6,000.00
- East Hampton Public Schools: Memorial School Garden \$23,320.00
- Groton Public Schools: Growing Groton's Farm to School Program \$24,946.00
- Hartford Public High School: Hartford Public High School Greenhouse \$24,999.00
- Lauren Little Edutainment, Hartford: Traveling School Yard Tour Program \$9,640.00
- Meriden Public Schools: Creating Equitable Opportunities Through Farm to School Connection \$4,949.00
- Naugatuck School District: #NaugyGrows \$24,990.00
- New Britain Public Schools: Smith School Garden Expansion \$1,882.00
- Regional YMCA of Western CT: Regional Y Gardening Programs \$14,981.00
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children: ELLI Classrooms Farm to School Learning Project \$10,259.00
- Torrington Public Schools: Torrington Produce Pilot \$24,844.00
- West Haven Child Development Center: Farm to Table, Expanding Preschool Children's Worldview \$24,857.00



- Winchester Public Schools: Winchester School Produce Pilot \$4,999.00
- Yellow Farmhouse Education Center: Experiential Professional Learning for CT Family & Consumer Science Teachers \$24,35

From CT DoAg Commissioner Hurlburt in the agency’s February 2022 press release announcing awardees;

*“The enthusiastic response to the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant program reiterates the interest and need for programs such as this to educate children about nutrition while facilitating the connection of where their food comes from,” said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt. “We look forward to the outcomes of the awarded projects and the impact it has on seeing the funded projects being implemented and having a positive impact on the next generation.”*



**Project timelines and funding distribution**

Awardees were able to begin their projects on April 1, 2022 and have up to 18 months to complete their project. Awardees were able to request an advance of 50% of the grant funds upon contract signing, the remaining balance will be distributed upon approval of the final report and verification of program compliance and spending.

**Post award technical assistance**

FY 22 awardees can reach out at any time for technical assistance to DoAg’s program manager for individual needs. Additionally, there were multiple sessions with topic-based discussion series during July 2022 with select advisory board

members. Once FY 23 projects are awarded, there will be a joint gathering put together to share ideas and best practices.

**Grantee highlighting:**

In Spring of 2022, FoodCorps CT, a CTG4CTK advisory member, brought on a short-term employee, Abigail Dubois, to highlight grant awardees and share their success stories to promote Farm to School and the CTG4CTK grant program. This employee was collaboratively advised by FoodCorps, New Britain ROOTS, and DoAg demonstrating not just the great projects that awardees have used the grant funds for, but also the partner support for this program and desire to help make it a success. The result of this effort can be seen at the end of this report and the full write ups are available on the Farm to School Collaborative website at [ctfarmtoschool.com](http://ctfarmtoschool.com). During CT Grown for CT Kids Week 2022, this team helped many grantees to put on events (or highlighted ones that were already occurring) to bring attention to the impacts of their farm to school programming on students.

## **FY 2023 Grant Round**

The application to submit proposals for the FY 2023 CTG4CTKG was open from September 15, 2022 through December 15, 2022. Applicants could apply for up to \$24,999. The program categories were revised from the 2022 program to four new categories for the FY 2023 program.

- Track 1: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Local Procurement Grant
- Track 2: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Experiential Learning Grant
- Track 3: Connecticut Producer Capacity Building Grant
- Track 4: Connecticut Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant

### **Changes to FY 23 grant program**

- Modifications to grant categories
- Creation of microgrants (a simplified application for projects \$5,000 or less)
- Translation of application into Spanish

A webinar was held October 6, 2022 for interested applicants to hear about the grant purpose, application requirements, and to ask questions. There were 123 registrants for this webinar.

Applicants were again able to receive technical assistance with writing their proposals from Jiff Martin, Sustainable Food System Educator at UConn Extension and Sherlene Rodriquez, also of Uconn Extension, who are both key partners in CT Farm to School Initiatives. In group coaching sessions by track, they spent four hours with 39 individuals, and jointly 37 hours while in one-on-one sessions with 36 applicants. This significant investment in assisting interested applicants demonstrates one of the many ways that Farm to School partners in the state were invested in the success of this program.

DoAg received a total of **72** complete applications, **totaling \$1,022,284.91**, spanning all four categories from CT public schools, Early Childhood Education Centers, Non-Profits, and small businesses partnering with schools, farmers, and boards of education.

### **72 Applications Received Totaling Over \$1,022,000 in Requests**

#### **Advisory Board Members FY 23**

1. Department of Public Health, Jennifer Vinci
2. Office of Early Childhood, Kimberly Paluska
3. CT State Department of Education, Monica Pacheco
4. CT Association of Boards of Education, Becky Tyrell and Janice Cupee
5. CT Education Association, Lisa Thomas
6. FoodCorps, Dawn Crayco
7. Roots2Rise, Kimberly Hughes
8. NW CT Food Hub, Kay Carroll



9. School Nutrition Association of CT (SNACT), Erin Perpetua and Denise DiMare; and
10. Uconn Extension, Shannon Raider-Ginsburg.

**Fiscal year 2023 Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant awardees**

**32** proposals were funded in FY2023, totaling \$452,169 in grant awards.

*Applicants were notified of their award on December 22, 2022, and projects will begin in February of 2023 and extend to August of 2024 ensuring compliance with ARPA mandated timelines.*

- All Our Kin: Increasing Farm-to-School Initiatives Within Family Child Care Programs \$11,105.00
- Bright Beginnings of Fairfield, LLC: Bright Beginnings of Fairfield \$5,000.00
- Bristol Child Development Center: Little Chef \$18,600.00
- Bristol Public Schools: Seed to Table \$24,090.00
- Brooklyn Elementary School: BES Greenhouse Project \$24,999.00
- Center Elementary School East Hampton: Community Greenhouse \$24,530.00
- Charles Barrows STEM Academy: Farming in Education Technology \$5,000.00
- Charter Oak International Academy: Exploration of our Learning Garden Habitat \$11,000.00
- Cheshire Public Schools: Cheshire Greenhouse \$24,625.00
- Cobblestone Farm: Scaling Up Root Production \$5,000.00
- Common Ground High School: Increasing FTS Procurement at Common Ground \$24,085.00
- Community First School, Hartford: Farm to School Community \$12,215.00
- Creative Kids Daycare: CKD Grow Box Expansion \$4,270.00
- East Granby Public Schools: Nourish My Soul Farm to School \$24,910.00
- Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School: CREC GEHMS CTG4CTK \$24,955.00
- Lauren Little Edutainment: Tasting the Seasons \$18,850.00
- Hungry Reaper Farm: Wash & Pack Improvement \$5,000.00
- Hunts Brook Farm: High Tunnel Materials \$5,000.00
- KNOX Foundation: Expanding FTS Program through Education and School Gardens \$20,400.00
- Maple Bank Farm: Caterpillar Tunnel \$4,830.00
- Middletown PS: Track 2 Experiential Learning \$24,670.00
- New Britain ROOTS: Expanding Farm to School in New Britain \$20,435.00
- Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy: Edible U \$5,685.00
- Sunset Farm: Farm to School Wash Station Expansion \$4,355.00
- Sweet Acre Farm: Cooler Build \$5,000.00
- Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA): Promoting Healthy Food Choices: A Partnership between ECE and Local Farmers \$5,000.00
- Thy Neighbor's Farm: Season Extension Equipment \$4,920.00

- Town of Manchester/Early Childhood Collaborative (MECC): MECC FTS Program \$23,285.00
- Watertown Public Schools: Watertown Grown 4 Watertown Kids \$6,150.00
- West Haven Development Center: Onto Stage 2: Farm to ECE, Expanding Children's Worldview \$24,990.00
- Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School: Growing, Eating, Learning \$24,999.00
- YMCA Hartford Region.: YWCA Hartford Region Early Learning Center FTS Program \$4,315.00

**FY 2022 Budget Summary**

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Funds</b>
<b>Total Funds Allocated to Grantees</b>	\$225,007.00
<b>DoAg Administrative Cost</b>	\$24,993.00
<b>Total FY 22 Program Budget</b>	\$250,000.00

<b>Grant Recipients</b>	<b>Funds Awarded and Encumbered</b>	<b>Funds Dispersed as of 12/15/22</b>
Bristol Child Development Center	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00
East Hampton Public School	\$23,320.00	\$0
Groton Public Schools	\$24,946.00	\$0
Hartford Public High School	\$24,999.00	\$12,499.50
Lauren Little Edutainment	\$9,640.00	\$4,820.00
Meriden Public Schools	\$4,940.00	\$2,470.00
Naugatuck School District	\$24,990.00	\$12,495.00
New Britain Public Schools- Smith School	\$1,882.00	\$0
Regional YMCA of Western CT	\$14,981.00	\$0
Steppingstones Museum for Children Inc.	\$10,259.00	\$5,259.00
Torrington Public Schools	\$24,844.00	\$0
West Haven Child Development Center	\$24,857.00	\$12,428.50
Winchester Public Schools	\$4,999.00	\$0
Yellow Farmhouse	\$24,350.00	\$12,175.00
<b>Total FY 22 Program Awards</b>	<b>\$225,007.00</b>	<b>\$65,147.00</b>

## FY 2023 Budget Summary

*Applicants were notified of their award on December 22, 2022 and projects will begin in February of 2023 and extend to August of 2024.*

Expense Category	Funds
<b>Total Funds Allocated to Grantees</b>	\$452,169.00
<b>DoAg Administrative Cost</b>	\$47,831.00
<b>Total FY 23 Program Budget</b>	\$500,000.00

Grant Recipients	Funds Awarded
All Our Kin, Inc.	\$11,105
Bright Beginnings of Fairfield, LLC	\$5,000
Bristol Child Development Center	\$18,600
Bristol Public Schools	\$24,090
Brooklyn Elementary School	\$24,999
Center Elementary School East Hampton	\$24,530
Charles Barrows STEM Academy	\$5,000
Charter Oak International Academy	\$11,000
Cheshire Public Schools	\$24,625
Cobblestone Farm	\$5,000
Common Ground	\$24,085
Community First School, Hartford	\$12,115
Diane Matulis/ Creative Kids Daycare	\$4,270
East Granby Public Schools	\$24,910
Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School	\$24,955
Lauren Little Edutainment at Mary Hooker Magnet School	\$18,850
Hungry Reaper Farm	\$5,000
Hunts Brook Farm	\$5,000
KNOX Foundation	\$20,400
Maple Bank Farm	\$4,830
Middletown Public Schools	\$24,670
New Britain ROOTS	\$20,435
Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy	\$5,685
Sunset Farm	\$4,356
Sweet Acre Farm	\$5,000
Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)	\$5,000
Thy Neighbors Farm	\$4,920
Town of Manchester/Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative (MECC)	\$23,285
Watertown Public Schools	\$6,150

West Haven Development Center, Inc	\$24,990
Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School	\$24,999
YMCA Hartford Region, Inc.	\$4,315
<b>Total FY23 Program Awards</b>	<b>\$452,169.00</b>

## **Program Evaluation**

The CTG4CTK grant program has seen significant interest demonstrated by the number of applications received each funding round and by the level of partner engagement throughout the process. DoAg has received positive community engagement with the program and sees it as an important component of Farm to School efforts in the state, including agriculture and nutrition education, student hands on growing opportunities, or expanding markets for CT producers.

Projects funded through the CTG4CTK grant program are an investment in students, producers, and educators throughout the state. The projects focus on improving the state's food system and engaging students to learn where their food comes from, how to grow food, and expanding access to local nutritious foods, all of which can encourage healthy eating habits thereby working to improve child health outcomes.

The FY 22 CTG4CTK grantees are a year into their projects, and all have much to celebrate and showcase for their efforts, many of whom are highlighted in the report below and in recent media stories. Two of the grantees received a USDA Farm to School Grant in October to build upon the work started under their CTG4CTK grant project. The FY 23 grantees will begin their projects in early 2023 and we anticipate many positive outcomes from those projects as well.

The CT Farm to School Collaborative is planning an event in 2023 to showcase CTG4CTK grantee projects and to give grantees an opportunity to share their successes and struggles to learn from one another, and for other districts to learn from them. There is a statewide planning group working on a Farm to School institute for summer 2023 which will give a select number of districts the opportunity to participate in in depth team planning and receive coaching to begin or further their Farm to School programming. CTG4CTK grantees will be offered the opportunity to apply to participate in the summer institute intensive and receive yearlong coaching by an experienced mentor.



## Why farm to school?



### Kids WIN

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.



### Farmers WIN

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.



### Communities WIN

Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

Source: National Farm to School Network

## FY 22 Project Highlights

### Yellow Farmhouse Education Center- FY 22 awardee and USDA Farm to School Grantee

Writeup by Abigail Dubois, FoodCorps

After a conversation with a Career and Technical Education board member from Norwich Free Academy, it became apparent that high school Family and Consumer Science teachers were searching for high quality professional development. Culinary or Family and Consumer Science Teachers found themselves attending trainings that were typically focused on school core content areas, not relevant to the specialized topics taught in their classes. After this initial conversation, the Yellow Farmhouse began offering workshops to the teachers specializing in food and cooking.



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, in March of 2020, after running on-the-farm workshops for four years, the Yellow Farmhouse had to cancel all of their in-person gatherings and begin navigating virtual education for teachers. Laura reflected on how the sudden switch to virtual had impacted their ability to reach teachers, saying, “While...you can’t replicate the inspiring and restorative experience of coming to a farm and doing hands-on activities related to the ingredients you’re cooking with, we were able to reach people in a different way. People who are physically further away and may not have made the trip...it made it easier to plug into a virtual program than to take a day to be at the farm.”

The trainings were popular and Jen and Laura received wonderfully positive feedback. Teachers, who were eager to reshape Family and Consumer Science beyond knife skills and the basics of baking, were taking what they learned from the Yellow Farmhouse and bringing it back to their classrooms and their students. Laura and Jen wanted to take their professional development offerings further, and this is where the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant (CTG4CTK) reshaped the program.

The CTG4CTK Grant will fund “a full academic years’ worth of professional development based on topics that teachers have either responded to really positively in the past or said they would be interested in,” explains Laura, running from 2022-2023. After receiving a small grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, the Yellow Farmhouse convened a Family Consumer Science Working Group to inform the strategies around supporting teachers. With the knowledge brought by this group, the planning and implementation of the year-long professional development offerings through the CTG4CTK Grant funding is well-informed and will convey precise and necessary information to best use the Yellow Farmhouse resources and teacher time.



The program will include a monthly virtual gathering, as well as periodical in-person workshops throughout the year at the Yellow Farmhouse. After the academic year’s professional development opportunities and workshops, another portion of the CTG4CTK Grant funding will be allocated for teacher stipends to participate in the Yellow Farmhouse’s summer institute. The summer institute stipends will reach out, in particular, to teachers serving low-income districts where students meet a certain percentage of free and reduced lunch, ensuring that all communities and teachers can access the learning opportunities of the Yellow Farmhouse.

With all of the planning surrounding how best to support the teachers, the Yellow Farmhouse has not forgotten the other side of the farm-to-school process...the farms! Another portion of the CTG4CTK Grant will be used to fairly compensate the farmers and experts who will speak to the teachers and offer their support to incorporating more local procurement in schools. “It enhances the programming and builds trust and rapport with the farmers in the region so they feel respected for their expertise,” adds Laura.

Now, what happens when the trainings end and the teachers walk back into their classrooms? This is where the ripple spreads ever-wider. When the Yellow Farmhouse invests in a workshop with 25 teachers enrolled, using the funding of the CTG4CTK Grant, those 25 teachers will then open their door to 80-100 high school students in one year. With the, estimated, 500 Culinary/Family and Consumer Science teachers in CT, it is easy and exciting to see how far the ripple can extend from the Yellow Farmhouse.

In October of 2022, Yellow Farmhouse Education Center was awarded a USDA Farm to School grant to builds on the work that they are doing under the CTG4CTK grant project and helps to ensure the sustainability and broad accessibility of their work.

### **Steppingstones Museum for Children Norwalk, CT**

Written by Abigail Dubois, FoodCorps

Stepping Stones Museum for Children, located in Norwalk, CT, is an interactive museum experience that allows children to learn through play, active inquiry, and investigation. The Norwalk Museum, along with the exhibits, includes two Early Language and Literacy Initiative



(ELLI) Classrooms, where 28 children, between 18 months to 5 years old, receive a year-round education designed to improve school readiness and close the achievement gap. The museum is also home to the Healthyville Cafe, which serves the visiting museum community, and gives the families of the ELLI classrooms an option of purchasing lunch for the children on-site. It is through this partnership, with the incredible kitchen, museum, and teaching staff, that the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is able to work its

magic.

Prior to the grant, the Healthyville Cafe and ELLI Classrooms were able to engage in farm-to-school learning through the museum’s Edible Garden, which is a part of the museum’s Healthy Children, Healthy Communities Initiative. The Healthyville Cafe also has established relationships with local farmers, such as Siverman’s Farm and Shaggy Coos Farm, where they are able to source dairy and organic produce options for use in the kitchen. With such a solid base in farm-to-school engagement, the CTG4CTK Grant funding will support a brand-new opportunity for Stepping Stones to dive deeper into working with local farms, encouraging nutrition and food-systems conversations in the classrooms, and giving the students the opportunity to mindfully experience food.



Twice per month, the grant funding helps in the procurement of locally grown produce and lunch ingredients, which are then offered to the children in the ELLI classrooms, free of charge. Each meal is partnered with curriculum units, created in collaboration with the teachers of the ELLI classrooms, to help the children not only digest the food, but break down what it means to eat food that makes the body feel good and know where that food comes from. Examples of the curriculum-to-come include how to create a healthy food system, fall harvests, winter vegetables and farming preparation, food waste and composting, pollination, and food literacy. So far, the teachers have been able to watch their students expand their food knowledge and bravery around trying new or different foods. Museum Senior Director, Scot Sedley, mused on the connections happening in the classrooms: “The experience of being in the room with the kids as they were eating new foods, and seeing their minds open and their horizons open...just seeing the joy there is one of the more positive experiences in recent months.”



Scot, the teachers, and the chef and kitchen staff of the Healthyville Cafe are all excited about the Steppingstones Museum’s future engagement in farm-to-school education and the opportunities to incorporate more hands-on learning outside of the building. With the museum’s Healthy Children, Healthy Communities Initiative, there is a wide net of funding to incorporate into Healthyville Cafe and the ELLI classrooms. The CT Grown for CT Kids Grant was a natural addition to what is already being shared with the students. Because the CTG4CTK Grant was able to support the development of a year-round food and gardening curriculum, the same teachings can be adapted and reused down the line. Hopefully all of the work being done



now will allow the Steppingstones Museum to naturally weave family engagement, farmer and farm visits, and potentially cooking classes with the Cafe chef into the ELLI classrooms. A consensus among the ELLI teachers and team is that successful farm-to-school programming and hands-on learning does not need to start out huge, with a feast every day. Success is incorporating one item in one snack, having conversations about food, and finding natural engagement in the exploration of food on each child’s level.

## **Bristol Child Development Center**

Written by Abigail Dubois, FoodCorps

*Little Chefs* is a program where farmers and the school community provide nutritional education to students through hands-on culinary experiences. Parents and/or guardians who are interested in the *Little Chefs* program fill out a pre-survey that assesses where their nutritional practice currently is and then are supplied with physical materials and online classes. Each month, the participating children are sent home from school with a *Little Chefs* kit, all packed in a reusable bag. The kit includes a folder that contains resources for local community gardens, farmer's markets, and information on local farmers, plus a number of literacy support materials for parents, such as a board book about gardening, cooking, and farming with an accompanying reading guide. The kit also provides a *Little Chefs* Guide with an overview of all of the materials, a schedule of pre-recorded and always-accessible online classes, collectable recipe cards, and all of the tools and food the family will need to complete that month's activity. Finally, the monthly kit sends home a \$4 voucher for the children to use at the Bristol farmer's market and a post-survey.

In a pre-program survey, Jo and Maegan discovered that the biggest hurdle families were facing when trying to eat fresh produce or shop locally was that they didn't know how to cook or how to include the proper foods. This feedback helped Jo and Maegan focus resources were needed for the families and discover the best way to deliver the resources. This type of *ask-then-give* processing is Jo's biggest piece of advice for anyone looking to incorporate more farm/garden-to-school programming and hands-on outdoor learning in their schools or communities. "Ask the families what *they* want and what would most benefit *them*," says Jo. "What do you need? How can I meet you where you are? What can I do to serve you?" Jo says that it all starts with simple and humble questions.





Once the questions were asked, and the answers were heard, *Little Chefs* began running, with 52 families participating in the first session and over 40 participating in the second. Then word and support began to spread. Jo and Maegan continue to work diligently to maintain the partnerships they’ve made through the program. They speak about *Little Chefs* with other early childhood centers, sharing their triumphs and challenges, and they have opened conversations with the City of Bristol to continue the program next year when the grant funding has ended. “There’s people who want to collaborate and there’s strength in numbers,” Jo shares. “My hope is that we’ll see this go to other centers and we’ll see this go to more families.” Jo attributes much of the program’s success to her community and to the farmers who have partnered with the Bristol Child Development Center to support the families with

fresh food.

## FY 2022 Grantees Descriptions and Usage of Funds

### Bristol Child Development Center: Little Chefs

Bristol Child Development Center will operate a monthly online gardening and culinary program called, “Little Chef,” where at least 50 students and their families participate in interactive sessions to educate the children and families on the value and use of CT Grown products. Through this project, there will be an instructional garden workshops and a series of home culinary workshops where participants will receive a box of ingredients from Tonn’s Marketplace and a voucher to the Bristol Farmers Market.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
<b>Contractual Services</b>	\$600.00	\$600.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$6,000.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$6,000.00</b>

### East Hampton Public Schools: Memorial School Garden

East Hampton Public Schools will expand farm to school programming for pre-kindergarten through third grade students at Memorial Elementary School by building a large, raised bed garden and installing an indoor grow tower. They will develop and integrate classroom and outdoor lessons utilizing the garden on topics like food, nature, and farming. Additionally, they will involve students in the garden through extracurricular activities including the creation of a Garden Ambassador program, a monthly newsletter, and integration of garden produce into the Middle School Cooking Club.



Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Salary	\$4,954.00	\$4,954.00
Fringe	\$234.00	\$234.00
Materials & Supplies	\$10,028.00	\$10,028.00
Contractual	\$3,312.00	\$3,312.00
Other (shed)	\$4,792.00	\$4,792.00
Subtotal	\$23,320.00	\$23,320.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$23,320.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$23,320.00</b>

### Groton Public Schools: Growing Groton's Farm to School Program

Groton Public Schools will expand farm to school programming for elementary and pre-school students at Thames River Magnet School (TRMS) by building new raised garden beds and constructing a hydroponic system. They will develop classroom and summer camp lessons on agriculture, plant life cycles, nutrition, and healthy food choices. Additionally, they will integrate produce from the school garden and hydroponic operation into student taste tests at TRMS cafeteria and provide students with a personal hydroponic system to bring home and to practice growing their own food.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Salary (54 hours at \$24/hr)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Fringe (32.5%)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Equipment	\$4,456.00	\$4,456.00
Materials & Supplies	\$11,635.00	\$11,635.00
Other (shed)	\$2,855.00	\$2,855.00
Subtotal	\$24,946.00	\$24,946.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$24,946.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$24,946.00</b>

### Hartford Public High School: Hartford Public High School Greenhouse

Hartford Public High School (HPS) will establish and operate a hydroponic greenhouse at Hartford Public High School, with the Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP). They will create and implement four units of comprehensive curricular materials related to agriculture, nutrition, and technology at HPS that will impact at least 300 students and establish a paid internship program, with the Connecticut nonprofit ReadyCT. This paid internship program will consist of 10 or more students in the Engineering and Green Technology (EGT) career pathway assisting with operations and programming for the hydroponic greenhouse.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Salary (\$33/hr x 2 teachers)	\$4,752.00	\$5,552.00
Fringe (21.2%)	\$1,007.45	\$1,007.45

<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$7,463.55	\$7,963.55
<b>Contractual</b>	\$6,028.00	\$6,028.00
<b>Other (student stipends)</b>	\$5,748.00	\$5,748.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$24,999.00	\$24,999.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$ 24,999.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$24,999.00</b>

**Lauren Little Edutainment, Hartford: Traveling School Yard Tour Program**

Lauren Little Edutainment will renovate the existing garden at Mary Hooker Environmental Magnet School (MHEMS). She will work with school staff to develop classroom curriculum and outdoor lessons on food, nature, and farming utilizing the garden at MHEMS and conduct field trips to Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP) and the Free Center (FC) in Hartford with 80 seventh grade students.

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Contract Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Salary</b>	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00
<b>Other (farmer stipends)</b>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Other (bus fees)</b>	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$9,640.00	\$9,640.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$9,640.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$9,640.00</b>

**Meriden Public Schools: Creating Equitable Opportunities**

Through Farm to School Connection Meriden Public Schools will develop a Farm to School Action Plan with projects to be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The aim of the Action Plan is to establish programming that will provide Meriden students with impactful hands on and experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, with project funding, there will be school visits to Deerfield Farm and Norton Brother’s Fruit Farm as well as the purchase of garden supplies and indoor herb garden grow kits.

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Contract Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$857.47	\$857.47
<b>Other (committee stipends)</b>	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
<b>Other (field trips)</b>	\$582.53	\$582.53
<b>Match by school</b>	\$0	\$129.97
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$4,940.00	\$5,069.97
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$4,940.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$5,069.97</b>

**Naugatuck School District: #NaugyGrows**

Naugatuck Public Schools will provide 300 third grade students with an on-farm field trip experiences to make connections between farming and the food with their program partner, Litchfield County UConn 4H. Additionally, they will enable the students to grow food in the classroom throughout the 2022-2023 school year using tower gardens and related lessons.

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Contract Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	\$16,300.00	\$16,300.00
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$650.00	\$650.00
<b>Other (bus costs)</b>	\$3,540.00	\$3,540.00
<b>Other (field trip fee)</b>	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$24,990.00	\$24,990.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$24,990.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$24,990.00</b>

**New Britain Public Schools: Smith School Garden Expansion**

Smith School in New Britain will use program funds to expand their existing garden by adding additional beds and to purchase needed garden tools and a toolshed to store all their equipment. Smith School works with New Britain roots to manage their school garden.

<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$1,882.00	\$1,882.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$1,882.00	\$1,882.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$1,882.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$1,882.00</b>

**Regional YMCA of Western CT: Regional Y Gardening Programs**

The Regional YMCA of Western CT will create a gardening program to reach students in the Greenknoll School Age Program in Brookfield; they will develop classroom curriculum and outdoor lessons on food, nature, and farming utilizing the garden. Additionally, they will enhance the YMCA Children Center’s Garden by creating new opportunities for field trips and speakers which integrate gardening and nutrition programming throughout the year in classroom and summer programs.

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Contract Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Salary</b>	\$2,768.00	\$2,768.00
<b>Fringe</b>	\$595.00	\$595.00
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$6,918.00	\$6,918.00
<b>Contractual</b>	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
<b>Other (guest/host stipends)</b>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$14,981.00	\$14,981.00

	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$14,981.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$14,981.00</b>
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**Torrington Public Schools: Torrington Produce Pilot**

Torrington Public Schools will increase the percentage of CT Grown produce used in school meals in Torrington Public Schools by 100% through purchasing CT grown produce from the NWCT Food Hub. They will introduce Torrington students to the availability of CT Grown produce through engagement activities and communication. With project funds they will also implement a new purchasing platform in Torrington Public Schools to facilitate purchasing of CT Grown produce and provide training to Torrington Public School educators and school food service staff across six pilot schools to integrate CT Grown produce and associated activities into student meals.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Salary	\$4,905.00	\$4,905.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Other (CT Grown Produce)	\$18,739.00	\$18,739.00
Match provided by district (CT Grown produce)	\$0	\$18,739.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$24,844.00</b>	<b>\$43,583.00</b>
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$ 24,844.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$43,583.00</b>

**West Haven Child Development Center: Farm to Table, Expanding Preschool Children’s Worldview**

The West Haven Child Development Center will provide students with an on-farm educational experience at Massaro Community Farm (MCF). They will develop and implement classroom lessons on farming, gardening, and nutrition education through incorporation of literacy, art, and music activities; incorporate CT Grown produce into student snacks and online family home cooking demonstrations; and provide 40 families with farm produce to participate in online home cooking demonstrations. They will also use funds to provide the center’s staff with monthly professional development opportunities related to Farm to School.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Materials & Supplies	\$2,785.00	\$2,785.00
Contractual	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Other (bus fee)	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Other (CT Grown produce)	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Other (farm sessions at school)	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Other (adopt a chicken)	\$500.00	\$500.00
Other (farm field trips)	\$9,072.00	\$9,072.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$24,857.00</b>	<b>\$24,857.00</b>

	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$24,857.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$24,857.00</b>
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**Winchester Public Schools: Winchester School Produce Pilot**

Winchester Public Schools will develop a pilot CT Grown product purchasing program for The Winchester Public Schools. The project will purchase a diverse range of fresh CT Grown produce from the NW CT Food Hub to incorporate into school meals in Winchester public schools. Additionally, the project will incorporate both educational learning opportunities for students such as “Try it Tuesdays” and professional development for educators and food service staff to facilitate sustainable programming.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Other (stipend for coordinator and lead trainer)	\$721.00	\$721.00
Other (CT Grown Produce)	\$4,278.00	\$4,278.00
50% district match (CT Grown Produce)	\$0	\$2,139.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,999.00</b>	<b>\$7,138.00</b>
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$ 4,999.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$7,138.00</b>

**Yellow Farmhouse Education Center: Experiential Professional Learning for CT Family & Consumer Science Teachers**

Yellow Farmhouse Education Center will develop and implement year-round online and in-person professional development (PD) for Family and Consumer Science (FCS) teachers to gain competence in incorporating farm to school content into curriculum. They will host monthly online PD sessions on topics such as but not limited to aquaculture, seed breeding, animal husbandry, and beekeeping. Additionally, they will facilitate 15 professional development workshops during the 2022-2023 school year including a summer institute for Family and Consumer Science teachers.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
Salary (\$25/hour x 2 staff)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,350.00	\$3,350.00
Contractual	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Other (site fees)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Other (teacher stipends)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$24,350.00</b>	<b>\$24,350.00</b>
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$ 24,350.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$24,350.00</b>

**Steppingstones Museum for Children: ELLI Classrooms Farm to School Learning Project**

Steppingstones Museum in its Early Learning classrooms will design and implement comprehensive farm to school programming involving classroom and home-based lessons, extracurricular activities, and the purchase of CT Grown farm products for the use in two student lunches per month.

Expense Category	Contract Funds	Total Cost
School Match (Salary)	\$0.00	\$7,100.00
School Match (Fringe)	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Materials & Supplies	\$3,660.00	\$7,660.00
School Match (Materials & Supplies)	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Other (food costs)	\$6,599.00	\$6,599.00
Subtotal	\$10,259.00	\$22,909.00
	<b>Contract Amount Not to Exceed: \$10,259.00</b>	<b>Project Total Amount: \$22,909.00</b>

**FY 2023 Grantee Descriptions**

**All Our Kin, Inc.:** Increasing Farm-to-School Initiatives Within Family Child Care Programs \$11,105.00. Host a Farm to Table Event for families and children in their Family Child Care Network, host a Farm to School workshop with seedling distribution for educators, and provide up to six \$500 stipends for six educators to build their own garden.

**Bright Beginnings of Fairfield, LLC:** Bright Beginnings of Fairfield \$5,000.00. For the purchase of a tower garden, produce for students’ snacks, and agricultural education books to integrate into Farm to School curriculum at each of three Family Child Care centers.

**Bristol Child Development Center:** Little Chef \$18,600.00. Bristol Child Development Center will operate a monthly online and in person gardening and culinary program called, “Little Chef,” where students and their families participate in interactive sessions, including taste tests, to educate the children and families on the value and use of CT Grown products.

**Bristol Public Schools:** Seed to Table \$24,090.00. Bristol Public Schools will pilot after school and summer enrichment agriculture and nutrition programming at Ivy Drive and Greene Hills Elementary school through the installation of a new greenhouse and tower gardens. They will also host a family fall festival and dinner.

**Brooklyn Elementary School:** BES Greenhouse Project \$24,999.00. Brooklyn Elementary School will purchase and install a greenhouse on their campus for students to gain hands on learning experience growing fruits and vegetables.

**Center Elementary School East Hampton:** Community Greenhouse \$24,530.00. Center Elementary will build a greenhouse for use by its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in class planting



days, garden clubs, and after school programming. The school will also work with students in East Hampton High School and primary school to utilize the greenhouse.

**Charles Barrows STEM Academy:** Farming in Education Technology \$5,000.00. Charles Barrows will work with local Walden Farm to expand the urban farming program at the school by adding two Farmbots and a small greenhouse for seed starting in the technology department of the school.

**Charter Oak International Academy:** Exploration of our Learning Garden Habitat \$11,000.00. The school will work with Root2RISE and Lauren Little Edutainment to develop a series of lessons to integrate into one of their STEM inquiry units at each grade level for PK-5 as well as holding field trips for students to area farms.

**Cheshire Public Schools:** Cheshire Greenhouse \$24,625.00. Installation of a greenhouse located at their alternative high school for use by the student culinary program. The greenhouse will be centrally located and available to the whole district after the first year.

**Cobblestone Farm:** Scaling Up Root Production \$5,000.00. Purchase of a flame weeder and root washer to expand sales of root vegetables to districts such as Mansfield, Windham, Coventry, and UConn's Child Development Lab.

**Common Ground High School:** Increasing Farm-to-School Procurement at Common Ground \$24,085.00. To expand capacity for their Farm to School programming including produce processing, student cooking, and education. Additionally, will contribute to stipends for Green Job Corps high school students.

**Community First School, Hartford:** Farm to School Community \$12,215.00. Gardeners to Farmers Greenhouse located at the Swift Factory in Hartford's Northeast neighborhood will build a garden for use by students and families of the Community First school for K-3rd graders.

**Creative Kids Daycare:** CKD Grow box expansion \$4,270.00. Creative Kids Daycare will expand the number of growing boxes they have on their property to increase student engagement and purchase CT Grown produce for use in student snacks and CSA shares for families.

**East Granby Public Schools:** Nourish My Soul Farm to School \$24,910.00. East Granby schools will work with nonprofit Nourish My Soul to create a wheelchair accessible outdoor garden, new farm to school curriculum, and professional development for teachers to implement the curriculum.

**Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School:** CREC GEHMS CTG4CTK \$24,955.00. Building of raised garden beds, the integration of school garden lessons and activities, taking PreK and first grade students on a field trip to AuerFarm or Penfield farm, and hosting two family evenings showcasing student work and using produce from garden for student taste tests.

**Lauren Little Edutainment:** Tasting the Seasons \$18,850.00. Lauren will work at Hartford's Mary Hooker Environmental Science Magnet School to create and implement a multi session agricultural and nutrition education program and purchase CT Grown produce for a student farmers market.

**Hungry Reaper Farm:** Wash and Pack Improvement \$5,000.00. Hungry Reaper will purchase equipment that will allow them to expand their production and sale of greens to area schools through the Northwest CT Food hub.

**Hunts Brook Farm:** High Tunnel Materials \$5,000.00. Hunts Brook will purchase and install a high tunnel to allow for year-round lettuce production for sale to area public schools including Groton Public Schools.

**KNOX Foundation:** Expanding Farm-to-School Program through Education and School Gardens \$20,400.00. KNOX will expand their existing Farm to School programming at multiple Hartford schools by building a new garden at Burns Latino, hosting a Public Ally fellow to teach garden and nutrition education at Burns Latino, Noah Webster, and West Middle, integrating fresh produce into the village backpack program, and hosting three events for student to learn from KNOX farmers.

**Maple Bank Farm:** Caterpillar Tunnel \$4,830.00. Maple Bank Farm will purchase and install a caterpillar tunnel to expand their growing production to schools through the Northwest CT Food hub.

**Middletown Public Schools:** Track 2 Experiential Learning \$24,670.00. Middletown public schools will work with local Cold Spring Farm to take multiple student field trips with 4<sup>th</sup> graders to experience and participate in the full process of growing and harvesting carrots. Carrots will then be integrated into student meals.

**New Britain ROOTS:** Expanding Farm to School in New Britain \$20,435.00. Increase ROOTS' ability to deliver programs and services to New Britain school district establishing a new elementary school greenhouse, installing wash/pack stations and sheds at multiple schools, and working with a local beekeeper to host professional development sessions for all district Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) teachers.

**Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy:** Edible U \$5,685.00. Ponus Ridge to expand garden and nutrition education during the school year with FoodCorps and in summer enrichment programs taught by the Carver Center.

**Sunset Farm:** Farm to School Wash Station Expansion \$4,355.00. Sunset farm will create a covered wash station complete with sinks, sprayers, tanks, and water heater to improve food safety and facilitate increased produce sales to Naugatuck Public Schools.

**Sweet Acre Farm:** Cooler Build \$5,000.00. Will purchase and install a walk-in cooler in their new wash station to use for produce bound for wholesale and schools.

**Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA):** Promoting Healthy Food Choices: A Partnership between ECE and Local Farmers \$5,000.00. Will work with Malerba Farm and Lakeview Farm to purchase produce for student meals and on-site farmers markets at New London and Taftville locations.

**Thy Neighbor's Farm:** Season Extension Equipment \$4,920.00. Thy Neighbor's Farm located in Torrington will purchase two hoopouses to increase production to schools through the Northwest CT Food hub.

**Town of Manchester/Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative (MECC):** MECC Farm-to-School Program \$23,285.00. Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative, who serves on Manchester's school readiness council to support prenatal to age eight, will create a Farm to School curriculum for preschool students with taste testing and engage families through a farmers market voucher and accompanying home activities.

**Watertown Public Schools:** Watertown Grown 4 Watertown Kids \$6,150.00. Watertown public schools will implement taste testing with CT Grown products at five districts throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

**West Haven Development Center, Inc:** Onto Stage 2: From Farm to ECE, Expanding Children's Worldview \$24,990.00. WHCHDC will expand their Farm to School programming to all preschoolers and infant/toddlers. They will work with Massaro Farm to conduct field trips, student agricultural learning, and teacher professional development.

**Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School:** Growing, Eating, Learning \$24,999.00. Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School will work with Micro2Life Farm, AuerFarm, and the Harris Agriscience Center to create a complete agricultural and nutrition education and experiential learning experience for students.

**YMCA Hartford Region, Inc.:** YWCA Hartford Region Early Learning Center Farm-to-School Program \$4,315.00. For the installation of nine raised beds at their Hartford and East Hartford Early Learning Centers for students to learn to grow fruits and vegetables and for integration into existing curriculum.

# Farm-to-school in your community!



WINCHESTER



"Maybe one time during the year, a school would do a little garden harvest and serve it to the kids. Then people started asking can we use more local stuff?" Becky Tyrell, Director of Food Services at EdAdvance, heard an ask and the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant helped her give an answer. Partnering with the NWCT Food Hub, locally grown produce will be incorporated into school meals in Winchester public schools. The project will incorporate educational opportunities for students and professional development for school staff to facilitate sustainable programming. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>

This project was funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's CT Grown for CT Kid's Grant established by Public Act P.A. 21-0002, S. 364.





# Farm-to-school in your community!



Yellow Farmhouse Education Center, housed at Stone Acres Farm in Stonington, CT, uses culinary and farm-based education to connect people to each other. The CT Grown for CT Kids grant is supporting an academic year's worth of professional development for Culinary and Family and Consumer Science teachers, all of whom will have the opportunity to attend on-the-farm and virtual trainings.

Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



West Haven Child Development Center currently serves 150 children, 5 years old and younger, and has always been a proponent of healthy living and nutrition education for the students. With the funding of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant, in partnership with Massaro Farm, the children of the center are able to experience hands-on garden education, cooking classes, and meals made from locally sourced ingredients. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



"Maybe one time during the year, a school would do a little garden harvest and serve it to the kids. Then people started asking can we use more local stuff?" Becky Tyrell, Director of Food Services at EdAdvance, heard an ask and the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant helped her give an answer. Partnering with the NWCT Food Hub, locally procured produce served at six pilot schools in Torrington will increase by 100% this year, thanks to the funding of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant.



Read more at

<https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>

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# Farm-to-school in your community!



With the funding support of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant, the Regional YMCA of Western CT has created a gardening program to reach students in the Greenknoll School Age Program in Brookfield. The garden program includes classroom curriculum and outdoor lessons. Additionally, the grant funding will enhance the YMCA Children Center's Garden by creating new opportunities for field trips and speakers. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



Stepping Stones Museum, located in Norwalk, CT, is home to two Early Language and Literacy Initiative classrooms. Using the funding from the CT Grown for CT Kids grant, Stepping Stones is able to offer the children in these classrooms free lunches, prepared at Healthyville Cafe, located in the museum. The ingredients for the lunches are purchased locally from partner farms in CT.

Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!

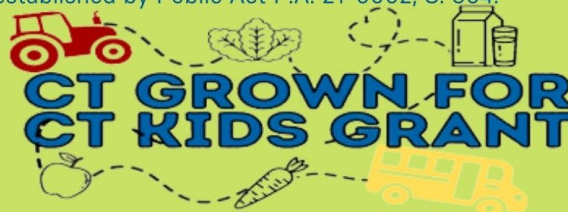


In partnership with FoodCorps and New Britain ROOTS, Smith Elementary School used the CT Grown for CT Kids grant funding to update and refresh their garden beds and purchase a toolshed to create a local area for students and teachers to access garden equipment. Importantly, Smith School has been able to incorporate hands-on nutrition learning in a safe space at school.

Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



Thanks to the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant, Naugatuck Public Schools is able to support farm to school education throughout the district. With the funding, a hydroponic garden tower was installed in each third grade classroom in Naugatuck, bringing accessible growing and harvesting to over 300 children. The grant funding will also support an on-farm field trip experience for each third grade classroom this school year.

Read more at  
<https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/meet-the-grant-recipients>

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# Farm-to-school in your community!



## MERIDEN



With the help of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant funding, Meriden Public Schools is developing a Farm to School Action Plan that will provide experiential learning opportunities throughout the district. As a result of the plan, 100% of the Meriden student population will engage in at least three experiential learning opportunities throughout 2022-2023.

Read more at

<https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>

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# Farm-to-school in your community!



Lauren Little Edutainment LLC (LLE) teaches students how to develop their relationship with nature. The Traveling School Yard Tour, a LLE program devoted to outdoor learning, is working to renovate the existing garden at Mary Hooker Environmental Magnet School (MHEMS), using the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant. The program will also work with MHEMS school staff to develop classroom curriculum, outdoor lessons, and field trips to Keney Park Sustainability Project. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



With the funding of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant, Groton Public Schools has begun to expand farm to school programming for elementary and pre-school students at Thames River Magnet School (TRMS) by building new raised garden beds and constructing a hydroponic system, using the produce grown for student taste tests and cooking. The development of classroom lessons on agriculture, plant life cycles, nutrition, and healthy food choices is also underway in the school. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



West Haven Child Development Center currently serves 150 children, 5 years old and younger, and has always been a proponent of healthy living and nutrition education for the students. With the funding of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant, in partnership with Massaro Farm, the children of the center are able to experience hands-on garden education, cooking classes, and meals made from locally sourced ingredients. Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!

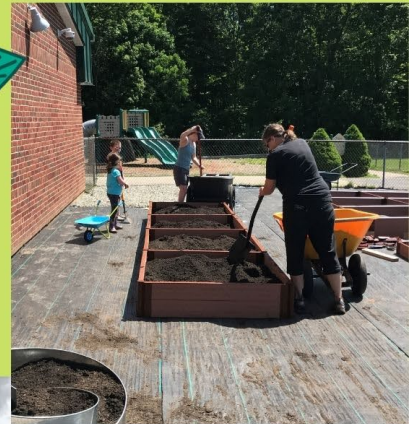


EAST HAMPTON



Much like each student in every school, a garden deserves a solid foundation and a team that has its best interest in mind. On June 4, 2022 a team of teachers, students, and community volunteers gathered at East Hampton's Memorial School (serving students from pre-Kindergarten through third grade) to begin building the school's CT Grown for CT Kids Grant-funded garden.

Read more at <https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/post/meet-the-grant-recipients>



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# Farm-to-school in your community!



Little Chefs, implemented at Bristol Child Development Center, is a program where children gain nutrition education through hands-on garden and culinary experiences. Families who participate in Little Chef are given literacy materials, resources about local farms and farmer's markets, and every tool and ingredient they will need to successfully complete each month's activity.

Hover your phone camera over the QR codes to the right to see videos of the Little Chefs program in action!



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

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