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For immediate release
January 27, 2023

CDFA Awards \$25.5 Million for Farm to School Projects Across California

Sebastopol, CA: [The California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork \(CDFA-F2F\)](#) recently announced \$25.5 million in funding for 120 farm to school projects across the state, and School Garden Network (SGN) and their partners are excited to be among the funded programs. This two-year grant, beginning in April 2023 and concluding in March 2025, will allow SGN and their grant partners to make significant strides in Farm to School programming across the county. This project will advance child well-being, economic growth, environmental resilience, and racial equity through farm to school systems that connect children to locally sourced whole foods and produce in cafeterias, classrooms, and gardens.

School Garden Network is collaborating with Sonoma County's two [Resource Conservation Districts](#) (RCDs), North Coast Resource and Conservation Development Council, aka [Conservation Works](#), and county-wide school district partners. This "Sonoma County Farm to School Capacity Building and Sustainability Project" is the culmination of years of research, experience, and conversations with dozens of schools, businesses, farmers, parents, students, teachers, non-profits, and local governments to define the most needed actions to support Farm to School programs in Sonoma County.

As a supporting partner, School Garden Network is responsible for increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables at partnering Sonoma County schools. SGN will accomplish this via on-campus garden revitalization efforts including seasonal grow kits and Harvest of the Month deliveries, implementing irrigation and infrastructure for garden sustainability, and providing curricular resources to bridge the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

The purpose of this project is to assist schools in bringing locally grown food to their campuses, families, and youth, while also benefiting local farmers. This \$488,600 grant will support Farm to School in four ways: 1) expand a school garden technical assistance and capacity building program; 2) provide local farm field trip experiences for Sonoma County students; 3) provide a Harvest of the Month program with culturally relevant and climate smart produce, sourced from small food producers, veteran food producers, socially disadvantaged food producers, and/or limited-resource farm households in California; and 4) identify barriers to and opportunities for the sustainable implementation of farm to school procurement, relevant to districts countywide and regionally.

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