

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 23: 4 - 8 Jun 2018



**National Gardening Week is THIS week (get out there and grow)!!**  
**National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month (tasty)!!**



**5<sup>th</sup> June World Environment Day (green celebrations)!!**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June is National Chocolate Ice Cream Day (a yummy treat)!**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June World Oceans Day (sustainable seafood)!!**

Link to the website: <https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

### Grants & Funding Opportunities

#### 1. Farm to ECE Funding Opportunity – Act Now to Leverage Funds in Your State

The federal budget passed in March 2018 included historic increases for key federal early care and education programs, notably the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which funds the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, was increased by \$2.37 billion. Some of this new influx of funding will be used for quality improvements to early care and education that can include farm to ECE initiatives. Review [this new memo](#) from the National Farm to School Network and the Policy Equity Group for more information and ways to take action in your state. For more information, contact Lacy Stephens, Program Manager at the National Farm to School Network, at [lacy@farmtoschool.org](mailto:lacy@farmtoschool.org) or Soumya Bhat, Director of Early Childhood Equity Initiatives at the Policy Equity Group, [soumyab@policyequity.com](mailto:soumyab@policyequity.com).

#### 2. CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Funding

CDC announces the availability of FY 2018 funds to implement [CDC-RFA-DP18-1813: Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health \(REACH\)](#). This five-year program will provide funding to communities to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk, or burden, of chronic disease. Approximately 32 projects will be supported by this funding, with average yearly funding level expected to be approximately \$781,250. Applications are due **July 16, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

#### 3. Jump Start Healthy Changes Grant

Fuel Up to Play 60: Jump Start Healthy Changes Grants offer funding for schools to improve opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. Funds are awarded for schools to implement at least one Healthy Eating Play and one Physical Activity Play from the Fuel Up to Play 60 Playbook. K-12 schools that are enrolled in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program for the school year and participate in the National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply. Applications are due **June 13, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

#### 4. 2018 CACFP Meal Service Training Grants

To assist States and CACFP operators with implementation of the updated CACFP meal patterns, Congress appropriated funds for the provision of noncompetitive grants for States to provide hands-on training and technical assistance. These meal service training grants will assist State agencies in providing job skills training for CACFP operators on ways to plan and prepare and serve nutritious foods. Learn more about specific training focus areas and how to apply [here](#).

#### 5. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Applications to the FY 2018 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) Request for Applications (RFA) must focus on approaches that promote transformational changes in the U.S. food and agriculture system within the next 25 years. NIFA seeks creative and visionary applications that take a systems approach, and that will significantly improve the supply of abundant, affordable, safe, nutritious, and

accessible food, while providing sustainable opportunities for expansion of the bioeconomy through novel animal, crop, and forest products and supporting technologies. These approaches must demonstrate current and future social, behavioral, economic, health, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the outcomes of the work being proposed must result in societal benefits, including promotion of rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life for those involved in food and agricultural value chains from production to utilization and consumption. See AFRI SAS RFA for details. Letter of Intent due **June 27, 2018**. Application due **October 10, 2018** [Learn more here](#).

#### **6. New CDC Funding Opportunity: State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program**

CDC has announced the availability of FY 2018 funds to implement [CDC-RFA-DP18-1807: State Physical Activity and Nutrition \(SPAN\) Program](#). The funds will support state investments to improve nutrition and to increase safe and accessible physical activity that benefits the whole state and can be shared with local governmental entities. Application due date: **June 14, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

#### **7. Updated SARE State Summaries and Grants Lists Now Available**

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has been a go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. SARE has awarded over \$251 million to more than 6,300 projects. [Learn more](#) about funded grants, project highlights and a breakdown of funding in your state using our newly updated portfolio summaries and grant lists.

#### **8. Walmart Foundation**

The Walmart Foundation's Community Grant Program is offering grants to nonprofit organizations and agencies that work in one of the following areas: hunger relief and healthy eating, health and human service, quality of life, education, community and economic development, diversity and inclusion, public safety, or environmental sustainability. Awards range from \$250 to \$5,000. Deadline: applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more [here](#).

#### **9. Home Depot Foundation**

The Home Depot Foundation provides funding for nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the United States that are using the power of volunteers to improve communities through its Community Impact Grants program. Priority is given to projects that benefit veterans and/or diverse and underserved communities. Projects should be volunteer-friendly, engage people at all skill levels, and be expected to have a strong and lasting impact. Awards of up to \$5,000 will be given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. Deadline: awards are made on a rolling basis. Learn more [here](#).

#### **10. USDA Announces Support Available for Specialty Crops, the Local Food Sector, and Agricultural Marketing**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced nearly \$89 million in available funding to support specialty crop growers, strengthen local and regional food systems, and explore new market opportunities for farmers and ranchers. USDA helps fund projects that bolster rural economies across the country. Learn more [here](#).

#### **11. Slow Food's Plant a Seed Campaign**

Slow Food is excited to launch their Plant a Seed campaign for Spring 2018. This year, they are focusing on the Three Sisters — bean, corn and squash. They are able to offer free kits to the first 300 schools in need. Use promo code *plantschoolfree* if you would like a kit but cannot afford to pay. Once those run out, or if you have the budget to pay, you can use *plantschoolhalf* for a 50% discount. If you're not using this for a school garden, they ask that you pay full price. [Order your school garden kit here](#).

#### **12. Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools**

The Chef Ann Foundation presents Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools. This grant is designed to help increase kids' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program. Grants will be determined on an ongoing basis depending on available funding. [Learn more and apply.](#)

### **13. HealthierUS School Challenge Qualification**

To all **NSLP and SBP** sponsors: you have a limited time left to get HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) qualified. The HUSC is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize schools participating in the **NSLP** and **SBP** that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. USDA is working towards decreasing the childhood obesity epidemic through new **NSLP** and **SBP** meal patterns, increased Wellness Policy Requirements, and by heavily promoting initiatives such as HUSC. For more information, please follow the [link](#) here. This grant will be ending **July 1, 2018**.

## **Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities**

### **Alaska Farm to Summer Week Celebration!!**

What are you doing July 23-28, 2018? How about celebrating Alaska Farm to Summer Week? Let's all celebrate Farm to Summer Week by serving local foods at meals and snacks or by participating in activities that support Alaska agriculture and then share all the great things you have done with your communities. Have questions? GREAT!! We will have more information to follow as July comes our way. This is just a little tease to let you know we don't have to wait until October to celebrate together!!

### **Healthy Eating in Practice Conference**

Healthy Eating in Practice is a hands-on conference for practitioners, researchers, and influencers, focused on changing the culture of healthcare to better support healthy eating behaviors, particularly in children and families, and prevent chronic diet-related diseases. This will take place in Asheville, NC **August 26-29, 2018**. Registration is now open for the Healthy Eating in Practice Conference. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

### **Summer Meal Site Location Help – \*\*\* Updated \*\*\***

- So, I didn't give you a good, complete list of steps a couple of weeks ago – I have fixed it this week and now you can follow!!

It is that time of year and you may be looking for summer meal site locations for your children or you are helping a friend look for a meal site location near them. I have a great resource for you!! This is the Alaska 211 site and will help you connect with so many amazing service providers in your community. The site is great and very user friendly just follow these steps to find the summer meal site locations near you:

Start by going to the Alaska 211 site [here](#)

On that screen, enter your ZIP code or select your community

Select the "Browse Service Category" on the left side of the three "Choose a Search" Options

Select "Food/Meals" Category

On the right side of the screen, select the "+" next to Food

Scroll to the bottom of the list to "Summer Food Service Programs" and select that

Now you have a great comprehensive list with contact information of summer meal providers near you!

These summer meal providers are incredible and they are located all around our great state!! Please check out a site close to you!

### **Alaska Harvest of the Month Materials**

Just a quick reminder that you can find all our Alaska Indigenous and Cultivated Harvest of the Month materials on our website up through this month!! Enjoy learning about fiddle head ferns and rhubarb – things are growing

out there!! Please visit our website for more information [here](#). Many thanks to Sue Lampert with Alaska Child Nutrition Programs for all her help!!

### **Alaska Indoor Gardening Curriculum Released**

Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce the release of their newest set of lessons, Alaska Indoor Gardening Curriculum, on their website <http://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/akaitcindoorgardening.htm> . This work is supported in part by the Agriculture in the Classroom Grant no. 2017-38858 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It is also supported by a grant from the Alaska Farm Bureau. This curriculum is a compilation of lessons developed by the Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom program, the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) organization, and educators throughout Alaska who have developed, reviewed, and piloted many these activities.

### **2018 Native Nutrition Conference – Registration Now Open**

Join us for this annual conference from **October 2-5, 2018** at the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota that brings together tribal officials, researchers, practitioners, and others to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition and food science, and identify new areas of work. Sessions at this year's conference will explore nutrition across the lifecycle, intergenerational learning about food, linking agriculture to nutrition, recovering from historical trauma, and more. Please follow the link [here](#) for more information about the conference and scholarship opportunities.

## **Growing/Gardening/Farming News**

### **Interested in New Certificate Programs from Iowa State University? – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is looking to Alaska for a potential location to host two certificate programs: Local Food Leader and Community Food Systems. There will be a two-day face-to-face/distance learning opportunity in early September as well as online learning modules. If you are interested, have questions, or would like more information, please contact Melissa Clampitt, UAF Cooperative Extension Service Program Assistant at 907.745.3551 or email her at [mrclampitt@alaska.edu](mailto:mrclampitt@alaska.edu)

### **2019 USDA Farm to School Census**

The time is finally here to prepare for the next [USDA Farm to School Census](#)! The Census will be distributed in the winter of 2019, but school districts and partners should begin tracking activities that are happening right now. Need help tracking local food purchases and farm to school activities? Check out these [evaluation resources](#) and connect with your [USDA Regional Farm to School Lead](#). A copy of the Census questionnaire will be made available to the public as soon as it is finalized.

### **Happenings on the Kenai Peninsula**

**Saturday, June 9: Soldotna Saturday Market's season opener**, 10 am - 2 pm at Kenai Spur Highway and E. Corral St.

**Saturday, June 9: Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale**, 10am - 2pm (or until sold out), at Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Soldotna.

### **Sitka Farmers Market Announces Market Dates**

From 10:00am – 1:00pm at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Founders Hall in Sitka on the following Saturdays: July 7, 21, August 4, 11, 25, September 1, and 15

The Sitka Farmers Market accepts Alaska Quest Cards (SNAP EBT benefits) and WIC vouchers; ask about matching dollars from White E grant. For more information call 738.9301 – or you can look up their website at [www.sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org](http://www.sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org)

## **Success Stories**

### **Gardens are happening!!!**

There are formal gardens, community gardens (just saw Galena's plot map yesterday), school gardens, backyard/personal gardens, raised beds gardens, in-ground gardens, container gardens, high tunnel gardens, low tunnel gardens, greenhouse gardens, volunteer plants popping up from last year's garden gardens, carefully planned gardens, and YOUR GARDENS!! Let me know what you are up to this summer – send us fotos of your growing gardens!!

I am so proud of all the great work you have done that I want you to share it and let others know about your successes!! Reflect on all the great work you did (because you DID!) . . . now, send me a little about your success. Everything is growing now let me know what you are up to and how you are celebrating summertime!!

**Tell me what is happening with you!! Send me YOUR success – no matter what size or from where!! Happy local foods and your farm to school successes!! Let me know if you have some great photos or success at your schools – I'll post everything I get!!! It isn't bragging if it is true!!**



**Be well,  
Jodie**