

USDA grant will help SGA, Kane County to increase local foods served in schools

Seven Generations Ahead is one of 74 projects in 39 states that received support through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **Farm to School Program**. The project, already under way, is part of an effort to better connect school cafeterias and students with local farmers and ranchers.

The Aurora, Ill.-area Kane County Health Department and SGA received the \$85,767 implementation grant, which will impact 48,387 students total across three school districts: West Aurora School District 129, East Aurora School District 131, and Carpentersville School District 300 (29 schools).

"SGA is thrilled to receive this USDA Farm to School Program grant and to be a part of the USDA's efforts nationally to increase local, healthy food access and education in our nation's schools," SGA Executive Director Gary Cuneen said. "This project builds upon SGA's 11-year farm to school program track record, and the Kane County Health Department's leading-edge work to build a local food hub that will link schools and institutions serving low-income children to Kane County and local area farmers."

[Read more](#)



OP/RF Zero Waste Schools

Zero Waste Schools Oak Park River Forest group continues to engage students in activities that allow them to have a positive impact on the environment. Recent highlights include:

- Students submitting entries to the One Earth Film Festival's Annual Young Filmmakers Contest.
- Six years of food scrap composting in River Forest Schools, where a robotics team designed a robot that dumps composts bins.
- A group of very motivated students and staff at Trinity High School implemented their zero waste lunchroom in late January.

F2S coordinator joins SGA

We welcome **Diane Chapeta** as the new Farm to School coordinator. Diane grew up in Chicago and returns to the area from Wisconsin, where she helped build a farm to school initiative along the eastern side of the state for the past 20 years. She also worked to develop pathways for local food to be integrated into statewide institutional distribution.

A former school nutrition director, Diane will assist SGA and Illinois Farm to School to increase their statewide network. "What I have learned over the years is simple," she says. "If you serve veggies with a side of education and fun, children will learn to love it and change their eating behaviors for a lifetime."

DONATE

Stay Connected



Seven Generations Ahead

1049 Lake Street, Suite 200
Oak Park, IL, 60301
(708) 660 - 9909