

CCBH
USDA Grant Press Release
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Cuyahoga County Board of Health Receives New \$100,000 Farm-to-School Grant
New funding to support continued growth of the regional Feed Our Future initiative

Cleveland, Ohio – August 12, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) a second \$100,000 grant under the national Farm to School Grant Program. With the new funding, CCBH will continue to build upon the success of its regional Feed Our Future initiative.

Launched with the support of a 2015 USDA grant, Feed Our Future engages educators, food service professionals and families to provide school-aged children with access to local, healthy foods. Over the past four years, Feed Our Future increased local food procurement in Northeast Ohio schools, implemented a farm-to-school professional development series, and developed an educational Harvest of the Month program.

“Everything we do is designed to support our mission of helping students make mindful choices about what they eat,” said Alison Patrick, Program Manager for Maternal and Child Health at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. “The new USDA grant empowers us to take our farm-to-school efforts to the next level.”

The Feed Our Future team will continue their 3C model of *connecting*, *collaborating* and *convening* with their audiences to form new partnerships and increase farm-to-school participation. Early efforts will include partnering with the Oberlin Food Hub to increase the distribution of seasonal, minimally-processed foods in schools, enhancing the Harvest of the Month kits, and elevating the Feed Our Future digital platforms with the help of the agency’s marketing firm, Muse. They’ll also continue their partnership with Refresh Collective, a youth development organization that delivers after-school programs and summer camps to students in at-risk neighborhoods.

Most importantly, Feed Our Future aims to get more and more schools to “Take the Pledge” and commit to farm-to-school practices for the benefits of their students.

“This isn’t just a short-term program – it’s a movement that is about putting healthy, local foods onto our kids’ plates every day,” said Patrick. “Our upcoming activities will continue to build momentum and, ultimately, impact Northeast Ohio’s schools and local food economy in positive ways.”

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About Cuyahoga County Board of Health

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) works to protect the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work and play in Cuyahoga County. With the help of community partners in health care, housing, education, food services and planning, the agency delivers programs that give everyone an equal opportunity to be healthy. For more information, visit www.ccbh.net.

About Feed Our Future

Feed Our Future, a regional farm-to-school program launched by Cuyahoga County Board of Health in 2015, inspires young minds to make mindful choices about what they eat. The program connects food service professionals, educators and families to resources that help them place fresh, local foods onto their students’ plates. For more information, visit www.feedourfuture.org.

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