

Community Food Project Profiles in Vermont

Four Community Food project grants were awarded to groups in Vermont between 1997 and 2006, totaling \$720,269. Two recent projects are profiled below:

Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) of Vermont, Richmond, VT

Grants awarded: \$155,000 in 2000 for 3-year period; \$190,269 in 2004 for 2 years.

With their 2000 CFP grant, NOFA built on Vermont's Food Education Every Day (FEED) program, developing direct marketing opportunities for locally produced foods and improving the diets and eating patterns of school-aged children by creating farm and food curriculum. The 2004 Community Farm Partner's Project built market relationships between farmers and low-income communities, and increased the availability of locally grown fresh produce in child-care programs, senior meal and housing sites, and summer food service programs. The project offered community members the opportunity to learn about food production in their area, and classes on the preparation of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT

Grants awarded: \$175,000 in 2003 for 3-year period.

The Burlington School Food Project was a three-year collaborative effort to connect schoolchildren and their families with nearby farms by bringing more fresh local foods to the cafeteria and bringing students to farms for hands-on agriculture education. The project established a food council to assess school food service policies and develop a purchasing policy, and set up systems to integrate local food purchasing and education, as well as gardening education, into the school. Working with Vermont FEED and all school and city stakeholders, they implemented programs to help students understand the impact of healthy food choices on their bodies, the environment, and the local farm economy. A third-party evaluation of year one activities (by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont) documented students' increased awareness of local food, and the enthusiasm of community stakeholders and school food service personnel.