



## JOHN T. WOODS INNOVATION FUND

The inaugural John T. Woods Innovation Fund awards four organizations with a total of \$104,563 as they boldly work towards creating better access to meals for children in Maine.

### **Augusta Teen Center | *Augusta, Kennebec County*** *\$30,000*

Supporting the buildout of a starter commercial kitchen in Augusta Teen Center's new community space in downtown Augusta. This project was developed to holistically address teen mental health and wellness and recidivism. The new kitchen space will provide the capacity to teach and mentor teens to plan, prepare, serve nutritious meals, while the kitchen itself will provide the opportunity to scale CACFP At-Risk and SFSP programs in the area.

### **Bath Area YMCA | *Bath, Sagadahoc County*** *\$18,000*

This grant will support the development and build out of a new Y Community Garden and greenhouse. The program's goal is to increase the number of meals served through CACFP At-Risk and SFSP programs with locally grown produce, allow participants to build knowledge and confidence around healthy food choices, and to engage the community through food. The Y Community Garden will be developed in coordination with Y committees on anti-hunger and diversity & inclusion, and local partners including the Bath Area BackPack Program, MidCoast New Mainers Group, Merrymeeting Gleaners, SNAP-Ed, others.

### **Cultivating Community | *Portland, Cumberland County*** *\$26,563*

Supporting a pilot project that will introduce culturally relevant meal items into Portland Public Schools high school with the goal of permanently incorporating school meals that are more representative of the diverse student body, mainly first generation students who rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition. This project builds off of the menu development work focused on African recipes at Westbrook Public Schools and will include taste tests and feedback from students, administered by an Americorps member and Food Fuels Learning staff and interns.

### **Healthy Communities of the Capital Area | *Statewide*** *\$30,000*

This grant will support the development of a Maine Farm to School Institute (MFTSI) that is sustainable/scalable, building structures of professional learning and increasing capacity for Maine schools to implement local food activities. The MFTSI will convene 6 school/district teams for an in-person academy followed by year-long implementation support through technical assistance from an assigned coach and other ME farm-to-school partners.