



## Colorado Farm to School Task Force Legislative Report, 2010-2012 January 29, 2013 (revised)

### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In 2010, the Colorado General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 81, the “Farm-to-School Healthy Kids Act,” which created the Interagency Farm to School Coordination Task Force (“Task Force”), a 13-member body with representatives from schools, parents, producer organizations and state agencies. For a complete list of current members, see Appendix A.

This Task Force is charged with *increasing the use of local farm and ranch products in school food service programs to improve child nutrition and strengthen local and regional agricultural economies.*



*From its inception, the Task Force has had a “bias for action,” identifying, pursuing, and implementing opportunities to grow farm to school all across the state of Colorado.*

### FUNDING

The Farm to School (FTS) Task Force has no fiscal impact on the state of Colorado. The Task Force has successfully acquired federal and foundation grants to support its work and hire professional staff from Spark Policy Institute (Spark). In 2011, the Task Force was funded through a \$50,000 ARRA stimulus grant administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In 2012, The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) granted the Task Force \$105,370 to continue and expand its work. Recently, TCHF and Gates Family Foundation invited the Task Force to submit a three-year funding proposal (2013-2015), both of which are currently under review.

The Task Force has landed additional grants to support specific FTS projects. These projects fall within two main categories: (1) community/regional efforts identified by local partners; and (2) projects that address statewide issues and barriers. These include:

1. **Growing New Markets in Northeastern Colorado:** Yuma and surrounding northeastern counties have begun growing low water specialty crops on a limited scale. To ramp up, farmers need to develop successful direct and institutional marketing strategies, which include but are not limited to, farm to school. The project was completed November 2012. Funding was provided by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Yuma Conservation District through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant. (\$10,000)

2. **FTS Food Safety along the Farm to School Food Chain:** The National Network of Public Health Institutes and the Healthy Farms, Healthy People Coalition funded a comprehensive legal and regulatory analysis of food safety issues specific to FTS programming. Five products were produced with this grant, including two interactive educational presentations: one for producers and one for food service directors. The project was completed December 2012. (\$25,417)
3. **Southeastern Colorado Regional Food Hub at Fort Lyon:** The closure of the Fort Lyon Correctional Facility in Las Animas has opened up the opportunity to repurpose the large commercial kitchen, freezer space, and warehouse into a regional food hub to aggregate, process and distribute produce from the six county area. Bent County LiveWell and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union are helping fund the first phase of planning for a regional food hub, which begins February 2013. (\$33,000)

In addition to grants, the 13 members of the Task Force provide significant in-kind contributions through their Task Force work, and the cost of travel, lodging, and meals. Task Force members' total in-kind contribution from 2010-2012 is \$127,489.68. See Appendix B for more detail.

## FIRST TWO YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With support from Spark, the Task Force used its February 2011 meeting to develop a *Roadmap* that outlines how the FTS Task Force's legislative charge can help it to address specific barriers to reaching the goal of "**collaborative, sustainable implementation of farm to school statewide.**" The Roadmap process identified five major gaps, and these areas became the work of the Task Force for its first two years. See *Appendix C to view the 2011 FTS TF Roadmap.*

### The Work of the Task Force, 2010-2012

- I. Policy and regulatory analysis
- II. Pilot projects and evaluation
- III. Centralized information hub
- IV. Outreach and technical assistance
- V. School facility improvement grants

## I. POLICY AND REGULATORY ANALYSIS

Federal, state and local laws and regulations govern the operation of FTS for local school districts and local producers. This regulatory environment can be confusing, duplicative and contradictory, and as act as a barrier to the procurement and purchase of local foods for school meals. All materials developed by the Task Force are available on the FTS Information Hub website at <http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/docs-media/policy-guidance/>. The Task Force's Policy and Regulatory Analysis Working Group products are:

## ***USDA Geographic Preference option rolled out as easy to understand “Frequently Asked Questions:”***

1. *A Q&A for Colorado School Food Purchasing: School Food Sales & Geographic Preference*
2. *A Q&A for Colorado Farmers, Producers, & Vendors: School Food Sales & Geographic Preference*

## ***50 state scan to identify legislative methods that support FTS:***

3. *Summary of Farm to School Legislative Trends 2010/2011* (Dec 2011). A 50 state scan of FTS and healthy school food legislation.
4. *A Farm Food Safety Toolkit: A Nationwide Survey* (Oct 2012). A review of how states regulate/guide on-the-farm food safety for producers who are small enough they are not subject to the new federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
5. *Government Purchasing Preferences that Support Local Farmers: A 50 State Review*. A 50 state scan of the ways that states promote local agricultural purchasing.

## ***FTS Food Safety along the Farm to School Food Chain:***

6. *Farm to School Food Safety: A Review of Agricultural Policies & Practice* (Dec 2012). A comprehensive analysis of food safety in FTS programming for policy makers, state agencies, school food service directors, and universities involved in agricultural food safety.
7. *Whose Role is It? Colorado State and Local Agency Roles in Farm to School Food Safety* (Dec 2012). A quick reference guide on Colorado government’s roles in food safety as it applies to FTS.
8. *Just the Facts Please: A Guide to Food Safety & Farm to School for Producers* (Dec 2012). Nitty-gritty guidance for producers to navigate food safety issues in FTS programming.
9. *Just the Facts Please: A Guide to Food Safety & Farm to School for Food Service Directors* (Dec 2012). Nitty-gritty guidance for school food service directors to navigate food safety issues in FTS programming.
10. *Just the Facts Please: Ensuring Safe Food in Colorado Farm to School Programs* (Dec 2012). Interactive presentations of the agricultural policies affecting food safety related to school food procurement from the federal to state to county level. The Prezi presentations - one for producers and one for school food service directors - are customized for each audience and include hyperlinks to relevant laws, reports, trainings, templates, and examples.
  - a. *Just the Facts Please: Farm to School Food Safety & What FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS Need to Know.*
  - b. *Just the Facts Please: Farm to School Food Safety & What PRODUCERS Need to Know.*

## ***Growing New Markets in Northeastern Colorado***

11. *Northeastern Colorado Direct Marketing Options* (Nov 2012). This guide provides an overview of many direct marketing options including FTS along with hyperlinks to key resources.
12. *Northeastern Colorado Agricultural Strategy – Community Supported Agriculture* (Nov 2012). This report provides step-by-step guidance on how to start up and maintain a successful Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program along with links to tools and resources.

## II. PILOT PROJECTS & EVALUATION

### Pilot Projects

The FTS Task Force identified the need to support and promote pilot projects, which will lead to long term success and expansion of FTS efforts in Colorado.

#### *Purpose of the Pilot Project approach:*

- To help further and evaluate the effectiveness of multiple models (e.g., school and/or producer food hubs, producer co-ops, enhanced online marketing) to accelerate FTS across the state.
- Models represent different scale, geography, products, facilities, procurement processes, etc.
- To build public visibility via outreach efforts associated with pilot projects.
- To provide a foundation for development of local, state, and national policy and practices.
- To inform broader policy context.

#### *Promotion of pilots to:*

- Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and distribution of food produced in this state for sale to schools in this state.
- Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for the facilities that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in schools in this state.
- Provide, expand, or promote training for food service personnel, farmers, and distributors.
- Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education in the classroom.
- Provide, expand, or promote school, producer, or community-based food hubs.

The Task Force has helped guide or support through endorsements and grant-seeking FTS pilot projects, including efforts in Durango, Montrose, Gunnison, Greeley, Denver, and Colorado Springs. Three Colorado school districts were awarded USDA FTS grants: Denver Public Schools, Greeley-Evans, and Fort Lupton:

1. **Denver Public Schools (DPS 1):** An implementation grant to expand DPS FTS efforts, including buying more local products, implementing a local food system curriculum, and continuing to develop food safety practices for urban farms. (\$99,966)
2. **Greeley/Evans (Weld County 6):** An implementation grant to expand the district's food hub to serve surrounding small districts in Weld County. (\$83,000)
3. **Fort Lupton (Weld County Re-8):** A planning grant to strengthen contacts and agreements with local farms and expand the pool of producers interested in selling to the district. In addition, funds will be used to improve a kitchen facility so the district can prepare, store and serve local fresh produce. (\$45,000)

### Evaluation

The Task Force identified the need to develop and implement robust evaluations of existing and future FTS projects. It is imperative that Colorado learn which models work best for different areas of the state. In 2012, the Task Force worked with evaluators at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Spark Policy Institute to design evaluation models. A major 2012 product of the Task Force is the *Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit*, a resource to help FTS programs of all sizes undertake evaluation. It provides step-by-step guidance and data collection tools to assess FTS outcomes related to

students, parents, teachers, food service staff and operations, producers, school leadership, and community. The *Toolkit* is currently being piloted with three districts: a small rural district, a mid-size Front Range district, and a large urban district.

### III. CENTRALIZED INFORMATION HUB

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, the Task Force launched in October 2012 a one-stop shop for all things FTS in Colorado. The *Information Hub* ([www.coloradofarmtoschool.org](http://www.coloradofarmtoschool.org)) brings together a wealth of information and resources that support FTS, and provides a networking space that is critical for producers and schools to overcome the significant start-up costs associated with farm to school implementation.

#### The Information Hub consists of:

- Audience-specific pages for (1) producers, (2) schools, (3) parents/community, and (4) students consisting of well-organized links to other websites with tools/information, and original information/tools;
- A calendar for FTS related events including conferences/ workshops, grant deadlines, Task Force meetings, etc.;
- A daily RSS feed of FTS happenings across the nation;
- A “Current Happenings” page to keep people up-to-date about FTS activities occurring in Colorado;
- A blog for people to share and discuss best practices and their FTS activities;
- A grant resource page with direction and links to grant opportunities;
- An “Ask an Expert” Forum where questions can be submitted to a panel of experts comprised of school food service directors, producers, state agencies, and parents working in FTS efforts; and
- Colorado created resources including: Colorado FTS webinars, policy guidance materials, getting started guidance and trainings, case studies, Colorado Recipe Collection for schools and for families, and an image gallery.





## IV. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Task Force engages stakeholders statewide through business meetings and community events. Since 2010, the Task Force has traveled to Pueblo, North Conejos, Longmont, Yuma, Las Animas, Montrose and Denver. The Task Force has presented Colorado FTS efforts at conferences in Illinois, Vermont, Wyoming, and across Colorado. In addition, the Task Force engages organizations across the country that are working to improve school food and local purchasing, including School Food FOCUS, National Farm to School Network, ChangeLab Solutions, and the Community Food Security Coalition. And states around the country contact the Task Force for guidance on how to start up or improve upon their FTS efforts.



## V. SCHOOL FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Anecdotally, one of the biggest barriers to implementing fresh food in schools is not a lack of awareness and interest by school leaders and staff. Rather, the biggest barrier is the significant expense incurred in the transition from using distributors who deliver complete meals to scratch cooking at schools. Facilities/equipment grants help eliminate this barrier, particularly when it is supported by FTS Information Hub resources needed to tackle the other FTS issues (e.g., policy changes, changes in how funding is allocated in the food service program, menus and meals, etc.).

To facilitate kitchen equipment and food storage grant-seeking, the Task Force has developed facility grant resources consisting of three components:



1. *Identification and dissemination of grant opportunities* – including federal and state government; national, state, and regional foundations; and private section opportunities – that are available on the Information Hub and sent out through various organizations’ members list including the Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition.

2. *A grant assessment checklist* that helps a district determine if an identified grant is a good fit for their needs.

3. *A grant template* that includes a general narrative about how FTS supports broad goals like tackling childhood obesity, providing healthy food in school meals, etc. along with links to databases a district can use to call out their specific obesity rates, consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and socio-economic status of their population. It includes language that can be customized and copied to applications and a description of various types of equipment and links to suppliers with cost estimates.

# THE NEXT THREE YEARS

## FUNDING

The Gates Family Foundation and TCHF requested the FTS Task Force submit three year proposals. In 2012, TCHF provided funding to the Task Force. Gates Family Foundation would be a new funder of its work. In addition, the Task Force will continue to pursue in-depth project-specific funds as opportunities arise. It is anticipated that the National Network for Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the Kresge Foundation will be releasing funding opportunities that align with the FTS Task Force work.

## GAPS TO ADDRESS

The Task Force roadmap has guided its activities in the first two years. Two major gaps have been addressed and are no longer a major focus of the Task Force. These are:

- 1) Guidance on funding for school facilities and infrastructure improvements.
- 2) Development of a centralized information hub. (However, the website will continue to be maintained and updated with new information as it becomes available.)

The Task Force will continue to work on three original areas and is in the process of updating of the roadmap to reflect four emerging gaps.

### Ongoing Gaps:

- 1) **Evaluation.** Evaluation of Colorado FTS is needed to build an evidence-base for effective models and to identify barriers. With a completed evaluation toolkit, the Task Force now needs to provide training and technical assistance (TA) to assist in implementation of the toolkit. Additionally, the Task Force will develop and encourage districts to use a common set of indicators and measures, allowing for results to be compared across the state.
- 2) **Policy guidance.** Producers, schools, and state agencies need guidance to overcome barriers to implementing FTS that arise from federal, state, and local policies. The 12 policy analyses completed have created opportunities for national recognition of Colorado's work, which expands opportunities for funding and partnership between Colorado schools and national organizations. The Task Force will continue this work, gradually eliminating the unknowns and grey areas that impede sustainable implementation of FTS statewide.
- 3) **Building public will.** To achieve statewide sustainability of FTS, the Task Force has continued its public will-building process, talking with state leaders, community groups, producers, and schools. The Task Force has been the focus of national and Colorado news. This process builds support for the work of the Task Force and awareness of FTS, while helping focus the Task Force efforts to make a meaningful and strategic difference for districts across the state. This work that must continue so long as FTS is still seen as a new and emerging innovation and not yet a standard practice for schools and producers.

As part of building will, the Task Force plans to extend the Colorado FTS webinar series that has been funded by a recently ended USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant through the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The series has gained a substantial following. In the first half of 2012, the series reached 303 unique participants from a wide range of affiliations, including K-12 school

districts, producers, higher education, state and local health partners, community food organizations, and federal/state/and local agencies.

### Emerging Gaps:

- 1) **Targeted Technical Assistance (TA).** FTS is a complex process that requires shifts in the day-to-day school and producer practices. The resources available through the FTS Information Hub provide important guidance, but the transition for an entire region requires more support. The Task Force proposes to offer a nuts-and-bolts level of TA adapted to regional needs that supports school food service directors and producers across a region to jointly address issues such as food safety, product needs, product price points, procurement policies, and wholesale/distributor relationships.
- 2) **Sustainability of FTS at the state level.** Long-term sustainability of FTS is occurring at the local and regional level; this institutionalization needs to go statewide. For statewide sustainability of FTS, it must transition with time from an emerging innovation to a standard practice. As this transition occurs, the need for statewide support will shift from the high level of capacity building currently needed (and provided in part through the Task Force) to ongoing and coordinated support by state agencies to ensure their regulations and practices facilitate, not impede, implementation of FTS. Already, the Colorado Departments of Agriculture (CDA), Education (CDE), and Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have begun this work with their leadership on the Task Force and recent decisions to explicitly include FTS in the job descriptions of key staff. However, it is one thing to add FTS to a job description – it is quite another to have staff with knowledge and skills to support FTS, clearly defined tasks that make a meaningful difference, and careful coordination across state departments to ensure alignment and avoid conflicting expectations of schools and producers. While this work has begun, creating sustainable and meaningful change within a state agency can take both time and effort and thus the Task Force has identified this as a focus for 2014 and 2015.
- 3) **Special Projects:** Moving FTS forward requires targeted and customized assistance. Some communities can raise funds to address their needs (e.g., the follow-up implementation steps in Yuma were fully funded through a federal grant received by the Yuma Conservation District). Other communities can raise some of the funds (e.g., the Southeastern Colorado’s Food Hub feasibility study). The Task Force will use a small amount of grant funding each year to match local funding for projects that advance FTS, beginning with the Southeastern Colorado feasibility study mentioned above.
- 4) **FTS Indicators & Data Collection:** There is a lack of data on local procurement by school districts, which is critical for understanding the supply and demand of locally grown food and the infrastructure needed to handle and process fresh food. Colorado has 178 public school districts, each governed by school boards and superintendents, plus charter schools, charter school collaboratives, and private schools. The Task Force has been working with the School Policy Indicators group, the CDE’s Office of School Nutrition, and the Colorado Farm to School Initiative to identify existing data collection efforts that can be expanded to include FTS indicators.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## TASK FORCE LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS (2013)

1. **Continuation of the Task Force.** We recommend the Task Force not sunset and continue for at least five years, or indefinitely, as recommended by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). In the latter case, the Task Force will request it be discontinued when its work is accomplished. The Task Force has proven itself to be highly productive: focused on its long-term vision and successful at completing several of its major activities. Yet, there is still much work to be done to reach the goal of “collaborative, sustainable implementation of farm to school statewide.”
2. **Additional Representatives on the Task Force.** The Task Force recommends an expansion of membership from 13 to 15 members along with the option of having non-voting ex-officio members. The additional seats provide critical representation of stakeholders who are vital to FTS efforts. These include one producer currently selling to a school or district, and a K-12 teacher or principal.
3. **Changes to the charge of the Task Force.** Three changes have been identified to better support the type of activities needed for furthering FTS in Colorado:
  - a. **Pilot projects:** Change “creating” to “advising” farm to school program pilots because the Task Force neither has the financial capacity nor does it have the authority to create pilot programs for local school districts.
  - b. **Statewide data collection options:** Add “exploring various statewide data collection systems to track farm to school activities.” This is a critical gap that hinders the ability to know what FTS activities are occurring and to assess how FTS activities expand. The Task Force has the expertise to assess and recommend which elements could be tracked and how a statewide data collection system could be designed and implemented.
4. **Biennial reports to the legislature.** To define when and how often the Task Force must report to the legislature. This does not preclude interim reports, presentations, or meetings with legislators or legislative staff.

## TASK FORCE THREE YEAR PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS (2013-2015)

5. **CO FTS Task Force meetings.** Continue quarterly meetings of the Task Force with community listening sessions and regional technical assistance:
  - a. Conduct FTS Evaluation Toolkit workshops in each region to assist school districts in the implementation of the toolkit.
  - b. Implement at least three intensive technical assistance regional convenings per year, tailored to the readiness/needs of the region that brings specific hands-on education modules and customized materials to schools and producers.
6. **Colorado FTS website.** Continue to maintain, update and market the Colorado Farm to School centralized information hub website, [www.coloradofarmtoschool.org](http://www.coloradofarmtoschool.org).
7. **Colorado FTS webinars.** Continue the Colorado Farm to School webinar series producing at least three webinars per year focused on FTS technical skill building.

8. **Outreach and Education.** Continue to make presentations to audiences throughout the state, present at national conferences, and hold conference calls with key stakeholders to build awareness, knowledge, and public will for FTS programming.
9. **FTS Special Projects.** Provide a matching grant to support one FTS community/regional project per year to enhance FTS critical capacity and progress. The Southeastern Colorado Food Hub feasibility study is an example of such a project.
10. **Policy and Regulatory Analyses.** Continue to develop policy capacity and guidance on FTS, specifically focusing on:
  - a. Participate and/or convene policy and legal conferences addressing FTS;
  - b. Develop a training program for law students on FTS issues;
  - c. Work with local public health and inspection departments to ensure FTS food safety issues are consistent; and
  - d. Produce new policy analyses on key FTS topics to identify barriers and opportunities for FTS implementation.
11. **Sustainability of FTS at the State Level.** Engage state agency staff that have FTS in their job descriptions (currently at CDE, CDA, and CDPHE) to develop agency sustainability plans and procedures, including the identification and determination of any regulatory or statutory changes that are needed to sustain FTS capacity and statewide data collection.

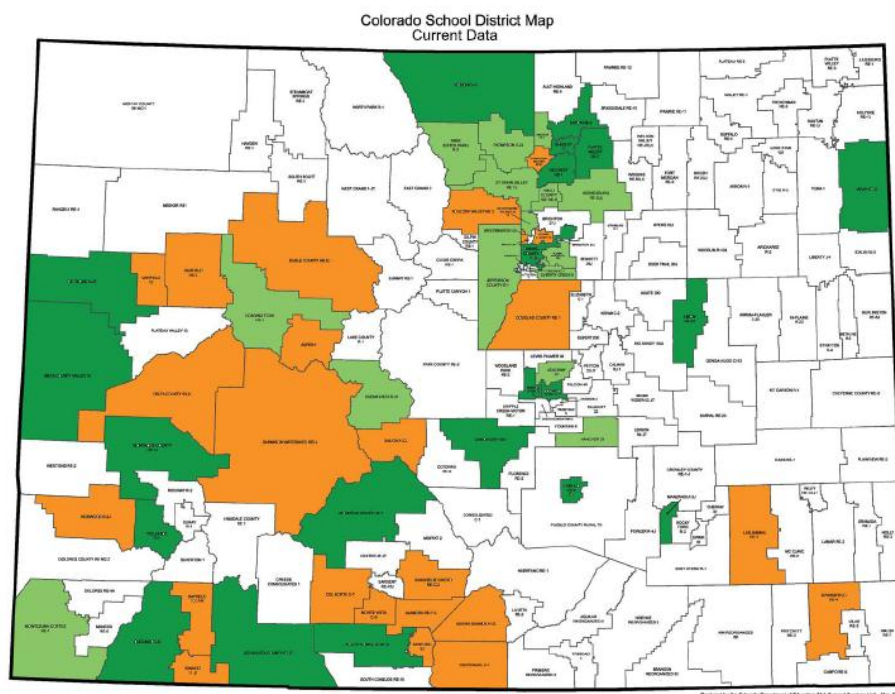
## TASK FORCE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

12. **FTS Financial Incentives.** Explore state financial incentives for certain school districts, on a pilot bases, to purchase locally grown/raised products. Research (including, for example, in Oregon) shows that school districts are a large institutional market and FTS purchasing could be a significant economic boost to Colorado agriculture and rural communities. The State could facilitate the development of these market transactions by providing financial incentives to school districts to offset the initial costs of developing FTS programs and buying higher priced local products. Such incentives could be phased out once FTS purchasing is institutionalized in school procurement systems and producers have established stable long-term contracts with districts.
13. **Local Purchasing Preference Policy.** Determine whether extending Colorado’s Local Agriculture Purchasing Preference law to public school districts would help facilitate FTS and be in compliance with USDA geographic preference regulations. Currently, Colorado’s “price reasonably exceeds” preference law (COLO. REV. STAT. ANN. § 8-18-103 (2005)) applies to government purchasers but not to school districts.
14. **Food Safety.** Ensuring food safety is critical to successful FTS programming. Based on the Task Force’s 2012 food safety research, the following is recommended:
  - a. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) should issue an interpretative memo on temperature regulations to impede bacterial growth related to human pathogens for whole fruits and vegetables that is based on the latest research and specifically addresses how school districts can receive produce directly from the farm.

- b. CDPHE should issue an interpretative memo describing and defining food hubs and clarifying which types of food hubs would be considered a food retailer, a food wholesaler, or both.
- c. Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) should require that the 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor certification meets the new requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act rule for 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor’s qualifications (soon to be released by the Food and Drug Administration).
- d. State agencies such as the CDA should use the Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards as the basis for both voluntary and required certified audits.
- e. Food safety trainings by state agencies, state universities (Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado School of Public Health) and local public health should be coordinated and made available in multiple formats to reach all audiences involved in feeding Colorado’s school children.
- f. The FTS Task Force should help facilitate a peer mentoring system between school districts and producers to accelerate the sharing of best practices in FTS food safety.

## FARM TO SCHOOL IS GROWING ACROSS COLORADO

Figure 1. Growth in # of CO School Districts Engaged in FTS, 2010-2012

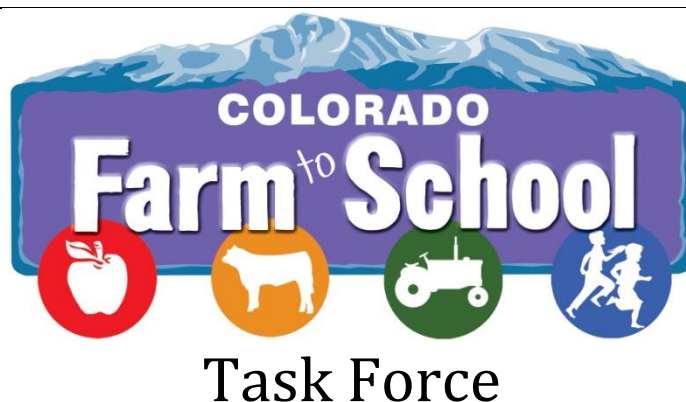


**Figure Legend:** 2010 2011 2012

The work of the Task Force along with its partners has led to an increase in the number of school districts engaged in some type of FTS activity. FTS in Colorado has grown from 22 public school districts in 2010 to 64 public school districts in 2012. The continued work of the Task Force will expand existing FTS programs and help launch new programs across the state.

## APPENDIX A

### COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE MEMBERS, 2012



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## APPENDIX B

### COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING SOURCES

#### INTRODUCTION

The tables below provide a quantification in dollars of the value of the Task Force members in-kind contributions (Table 1), the value of cash contributions through grants to support the Task Force as well as the additional project-specific funding acquired by the Task Force (Table 2), and a summary of all the Task Force activities by its cash funding source and in-kind contributions (Table 3).

#### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Colorado FTS Task Force is composed of 13 appointed members. The Task Force members volunteer their time to all Task Force activities, including attending quarterly and working group meetings, doing Task Force work outside of meeting time, participating in FTS community listening sessions and FTS conferences/workshops, giving presentations to stakeholder groups (e.g., state agencies, local public health, producer organizations, school nutrition associations, foundations, media, etc.). The Task Force meets all over the state, therefore, any given meeting involves significant travel time and cost to at least some members (the members are located around the state). Members cover their own travel time, mileage/airfare, lodging expenses, and meals related to attending quarterly meetings and listening sessions. In addition to the Task Force members, Real Food Colorado has been an active member of the Task Force since its inception. The Founder’s in-kind contributions mirror that of the Task Force members and are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of CO FTS Task Force In-Kind Contributions, 2011- 2012		
Source	Activity	Amount
<b>13 members of the CO FTS Task Force</b>	In-kind: Time spent attending Task Force and community listening sessions, doing Task Force work, travel, giving presentations.	\$105,062.50
	In-kind: Mileage/airfare to attend Task Force and community listening sessions, attend Task Force working group meetings, give presentations	\$10,863.25
	In-kind: Lodging to attend Task Force quarterly meetings	\$1,247.88
	In-kind: Meals to attend Task Force quarterly meetings (does not include food provided at meetings)	\$1,018.55
<b>Real Food Colorado</b>	In-kind: Time spent attending Task Force and community listening sessions, doing Task Force work, travel, giving presentations.	\$8,387.50



Table 1. Summary of CO FTS Task Force In-Kind Contributions, 2011- 2012		
Source	Activity	Amount
	In-kind: Mileage/airfare to attend Task Force and community listening sessions, attend Task Force working group meetings, give presentations	\$725.00
	In-kind: Lodging to attend Task Force quarterly meetings	\$85.00
	In-kind: Meals to attend Task Force quarterly meetings (does not include food provided at meetings)	\$100.00
<b>2011-2012 TOTAL In-Kind Contributions</b>		<b>\$127,489.68</b>

## CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to the ARRA funding (year 1) and TCHF grant (year 2), the Task Force has leveraged its work to secure additional project-specific funding to carry out in-depth work on a particular FTS aspect. The Task Force has been successful at acquiring additional funding because of its track record producing high quality products and dedication to successfully engaging key stakeholders in regions around the state. Table 2 below summarizes the source of cash grants and awards for 2011-12.

Table 2. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Grants and Leveraged Funded Projects, 2011- 2012		
Source	FTS Project	Amount
<b>American Recovery &amp; Reinvestment Act administered by CDPHE</b> (Feb 2011 – Feb 2012)	Year 1 staffing.	\$50,000
<b>TCHF grant, fiscal agent Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment (CFPHE).</b> (Mar 2012 – Feb 2013)	Year 2 staffing, working group activities and product development, national conference travel, materials.	\$105,370
<b>USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant through the Colorado Department of Agriculture with the Yuma Conservation District</b> (June – Nov	<i>Northeastern Colorado Direct Marketing Options.</i> This guide provides an overview of many direct marketing options including farm to school along with hyperlinks to key resources.	\$10,000

**Table 2. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Grants and Leveraged Funded Projects, 2011- 2012**

Source	FTS Project	Amount
2012)	<p><i>Northeastern Colorado Agricultural Strategy – Community Supported Agriculture.</i> This report provides step-by-step guidance on how to start up and maintain a successful Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program along with links to tools and resources. The small growers requested help to set up a direct marketing method to build a local and regional customer base in addition to selling to institutional markets.</p>	
<p><b>National Network of Public Health Institutes and Health Farms, Healthy People Coalition, fiscal agent CFPHE</b> (May – Dec 2012)</p>	<p><i>Farm to School Food Safety: A Review of Agricultural Policies &amp; Practice.</i> A comprehensive analysis of food safety in FTS programming as it moves through the food chain for policy makers, state agencies, school food service directors, and universities involved in agricultural food safety as it relates to FTS programs.</p>	<p>\$25,417</p>
	<p><i>Whose Role is It? Colorado State and Local Agency Roles in Farm to School Food Safety.</i> A quick reference guide on Colorado government’s roles in food safety.</p>	
	<p><i>Just the Facts Please: A Guide to Food Safety &amp; Farm to School for Producers.</i> Nitty-gritty guidance for producers to navigate food safety issues in FTS programming.</p>	
	<p><i>Just the Facts Please: A Guide to Food Safety &amp; Farm to School for Food Service Directors.</i> Nitty-gritty guidance for school food service directors to navigate food safety issues in FTS programming.</p>	
	<p><i>Just the Facts Please: Ensuring Safe Food in Colorado Farm to School Programs.</i> Interactive presentations of the agricultural policies affecting food safety related to school food procurement from the federal to state to county level. The Prezi presentations - one for producers and one for school food service directors - are customized for each audience and include hyperlinks to relevant laws, reports, trainings, templates, and examples.</p>	
<p><b>2011-2012 TOTAL Cash Grants &amp; Awards</b></p>		<p><b>\$190,787</b></p>

## ACTIVITIES, OUTCOMES, AND FUNDING SOURCES

The Colorado FTS Task Force has engaged in a wide variety of activities that they identified as necessary to create sustainable, statewide farm to school in Colorado. Table 3 below summarizes the activities, outcomes of each activity, and the source of cash funding and in-kind support associated with each activity.

Table 3. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Activities, Outcomes, Cash and In-kind Support Sources			
Activity	Outcome	Funding Sources	In-Kind Support
<b>Task Force Quarterly Meetings</b>	ONGOING. 201--2012 outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional visibility of the Task Force</li> <li>• Community participation in meetings</li> <li>• Conduct the business of the Task Force, including decisions made on proposals brought forth by the working groups</li> </ul>	The Colorado Health Foundation	Task Force members Real Food Colorado Local site coordinator assistance
<b>Quarterly Community Meetings</b>	ONGOING. 2012 outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 people attended Listening Session, 8 people attended Producer Session in Yuma.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lead to request to help develop marketing strategies for low water specialty crops in Northeastern Colorado</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 47 people attended Fort Lyon Food Hub community meeting.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lead to follow up with Governor’s office &amp; DOLA to conduct a food hub feasibility study and successfully procuring funding</li> <li>○ Lead to Bent County Development Foundation applying for a Kresge Foundation grant study of the food hub concept (to be submitted Feb. 2013)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 150 people attend the Montrose Food Forum, October 2012.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Five sessions devoted to different FTS aspects</li> <li>○ Goal to ramp up FTS efforts in three county region: Delta, Montrose, Gunnison</li> <li>○ Scheduled January 2013 follow up convening with producers and Food Service Directors to begin contract planning for 2013-14 school year</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Yuma Conservation District  Bent County Development Foundation  Valley Food Partnership	Task Force members Real Food Colorado

**Table 3. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Activities, Outcomes, Cash and In-kind Support Sources**

Activity	Outcome	Funding Sources	In-Kind Support
<b>Information Hub</b>	ONGOING. 2012 outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionally designed website</li> <li>• Dedicated audience pages: schools, producers, students, parents/community</li> <li>• Event calendar</li> <li>• Daily feed of FTS activities across the nation</li> <li>• Extensive library of Colorado FTS resources, including archived webinars from the Colorado FTS series</li> <li>• Ask an Expert Forum</li> <li>• Blog</li> </ul>	The Colorado Health Foundation	Task Force working group members Colorado Farm to School Initiative resources CDPHE Colorado Food System Advisory Council Information Hub Work Group members Will be sustained fully through CO Department of Agriculture
<b>Pilots/Evaluation Work Group</b>	ONGOING. 2012 outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation framework</li> <li>• Learning from three pilot sites</li> </ul>	The Colorado Health Foundation	Task Force working group members CDPHE in-kind support of 50 hours from Epidemiology staff
	2012 Northeast Colorado Producer Marketing Project	Yuma Conservation District, USDA Specialty Crop Grant, Colorado Department of Agriculture	CSU Extension - Yuma
	2013 Project Committed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southeastern Colorado Food Hub Feasibility Study</li> </ul>	Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant LiveWell Bent County	Bent County Commissioners Bent County Development Foundation Fort Lyon Repurposing Committee Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
	2013 Proposed Project (proposal to be submitted February 2013): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southeastern Colorado Food Hub Health Impact Assessment</li> </ul>	Kresge Foundation	Bent County Commissioners Bent County Development Foundation Fort Lyon Repurposing Committee Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Governor’s Office Colorado Department of Local Affairs

**Table 3. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Activities, Outcomes, Cash and In-kind Support Sources**

Activity	Outcome	Funding Sources	In-Kind Support
<b>Policy Work Group</b>	<p>ONGOING. 2011-12 outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q&amp;A for Colorado School Food Purchasing: School Food Sales &amp; Geographic Preference</i></li> <li>• <i>Q&amp;A for Colorado Farmers, Producers &amp; Vendors: School Food Sales &amp; Geographic Preference</i></li> <li>• <i>Summary of Farm to School Legislative Trends 2010/2011: A 50 State Scan</i></li> <li>• <i>A Farm Food Safety Toolkit: A Nationwide Survey</i></li> <li>• <i>Government Purchasing Preferences that Support Local Farmers: A 50 State Review</i></li> <li>• <i>Northeastern Colorado Direct Marketing Options</i></li> <li>• <i>Northeastern Colorado Agricultural Strategy – Community Supported Agriculture</i></li> <li>• <i>Analysis of Agricultural Food Safety Laws, Regulations, and Practices related to Farm to School</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes six separate products including two interactive online Prezi presentations targeted to (1) producers and (2) school food services.</li> </ul>	<p>The Colorado Health Foundation</p> <p>USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant through the Yuma Conservation District</p> <p>National Network of Public Health Institutes &amp; Healthy Farms, Healthy People Coalition</p>	<p>Task Force working group members</p> <p>CDPHE in-kind support from legal interns</p> <p>Real Food Colorado</p> <p>USDA FTS staff</p> <p>CDPHE public health directors</p> <p>Local public health departments</p> <p>Food service directors</p> <p>Georgetown University Center for Law and Policy</p> <p>Oregon Public Health Department</p> <p>Illinois Public Health Department</p> <p>ChangeLab Solutions</p>
<b>Outreach Work Group</b>	<p>ONGOING. 2012outcomes include presentations at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Farm to Cafeteria bi-annual conference, Vermont</li> <li>• Public Health in the Rockies</li> <li>• Colorado Association for Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) quarterly meeting</li> <li>• Colorado Directors of Environmental Health (CDEH) quarterly meeting</li> </ul>	<p>The Colorado Health Foundation</p>	<p>Task Force members</p> <p>Real Food Colorado</p>



**Table 3. Summary of CO FTS Task Force Activities, Outcomes, Cash and In-kind Support Sources**

Activity	Outcome	Funding Sources	In-Kind Support
	<p>ONGOING. 2012outcomes include media coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New York Times</li> <li>• Denver Post</li> <li>• Aurora Sentinel</li> <li>• Plainsmen Herald</li> <li>• Ag Journal</li> <li>• BC DemocratOnline</li> <li>• Durango Herald</li> <li>• Greeley Tribune</li> <li>• Colorado Association for Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) newsletter</li> <li>• Barn Media live interview</li> <li>• Colorado Parent</li> <li>• Lose Weight Now (blog)</li> <li>• COPrevent.org – live streaming of quarterly meetings</li> </ul>	<p>The Colorado Health Foundation</p>	<p>Task Force members Colorado Beef Council CDPHE media staff Greeley-Evans school district</p>
	<p>ONGOING. Guidance and support to schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying resources, partners, research</li> <li>• Writing letters of support for projects and grant applications</li> <li>• Convening conference calls to help districts coordinate and leverage similar efforts</li> </ul>	<p>The Colorado Health Foundation</p>	<p>Task Force members</p>
<p><b>Grants Work Group</b></p>	<p>COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to locate grants to support/expand FTS</li> <li>• Guidance: How to determine if a grant is good fit for your school</li> <li>• School Food Services Equipment Grant Template</li> <li>• USDA FTS grant template</li> </ul>	<p>The Colorado Health Foundation</p>	<p>Task Force members School food service directors</p>

## APPENDIX C

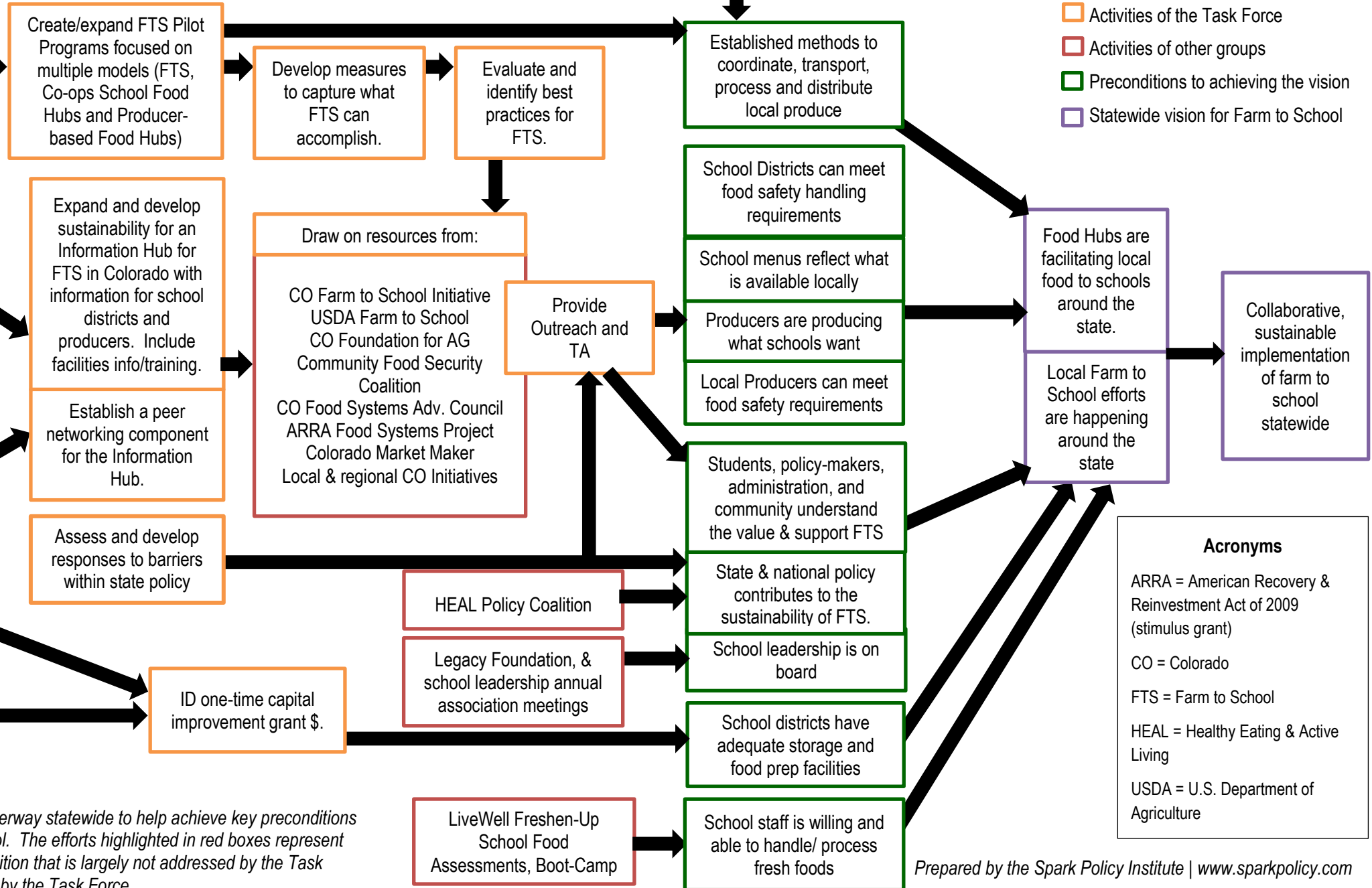
### THE COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE ROADMAP, 2011-2012

# Colorado Farm to School Task Force: Roadmap, January 2012

Updated on 01/17/2012

## Mandate:

- **Pilots:** Create/expand farm to school pilots
- **Producers:** Develop, design, make available training for producers on marketing, crop production, post-harvest handling of crops, food safety, business management, liability and risk management, contracting, and processing.
- **Food Services:** Assist school food services to establish procedures, recipes, menu rotation, proper handling, preparing, storing, and other internal processes.
- **Facilities:** Inform school districts on methods for improving facilities.
- **Funding:** Identify funding sources/grants for SDs



**Note:** Many other activities are underway statewide to help achieve key preconditions to implementation of Farm to School. The efforts highlighted in red boxes represent those groups addressing a precondition that is largely not addressed by the Task Force, but recognized as important by the Task Force.



## Task Force

[www.ColoradoFarmToSchool.org](http://www.ColoradoFarmToSchool.org)