



JOHN T. WOODS INNOVATION FUND

The 2022-2023 John T. Woods Innovation Fund awards 3 organizations with a total of \$85,000 as they boldly work towards creating better access to meals for children in Maine.

Cultivating Community & Cumberland County Food Security Council *Cumberland County*

\$30,000

To support convening and building a new network of public school food service professionals interested in implementing Halal-certified school meals. The goals of this network will be to share knowledge, information and resources, overcome barriers, and increase the likelihood of the creation and implementation of Halal-certified school meals. The project is a partnership between Cultivating Community, Cumberland County Food Security Council, Portland Public Schools, South Portland Public Schools and Westbrook Public Schools.

MaineHealth/Let's Go! | *Statewide*

\$30,000

Supporting the pilot of Maine's first Culinary Boot Camp, a five-day intensive training for 24 School Nutrition Professionals. This training is in partnership with experienced culinary experts, who have led this successful training model in Indiana and New York. The goal of this project is to increase the nutritional knowledge, culinary skills, and overall confidence of School Nutrition Professionals in order to plan, prepare and serve healthy meals to Maine students. Participating school districts will be encouraged to register school nutrition staff who represent elementary, middle and high school students to ensure that their professional development will benefit all students.

South Portland Public Schools | *South Portland, Cumberland County*

\$25,000

To pilot the implementation of electronic technology as visual aids to enhance communication in multiple languages in the high school cafeteria to address language barriers during meal service. South Portland has a large population of New Mainers, refugees, and students who are learning English. The new technology will decrease communication barriers by offering menu options, explanation of federal meal guidelines, and other information about school meals in multiple languages.