

News Release

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Chef Ann Foundation Announces 2025 Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship Cohort

Nationwide cohort seeks to advance healthy, sustainable, and equitable school food reform.

Sacramento, CA—The Chef Ann Foundation announced today that it has selected 27 school food leaders to participate in the 2025 [Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship](#). The Fellowship empowers school food professionals to lead healthier and more environmentally sustainable school food programs rooted in scratch cooking and champion equitable school food reform.

This year's cohort includes school food professionals from 11 states, all operating under the [National School Lunch Program](#). Representing diverse experiences and backgrounds, the Fellows share a passion for moving school food programs away from serving ultra-processed meals to serving more scratch-made meals. Over a 13-month period, Fellows cultivate their leadership skills; deepen their school food knowledge; and become experts on and advocates for healthy school food policy.

“About halfway through, I realized that the experience and knowledge I gained from this Fellowship would have taken me 6-8 years to acquire working in school food,” says 2023 Fellowship graduate Nick Dramis, supervisor of culinary operations at Marysville Joint Unified School District in California.

Fellows will complete a capstone project that addresses challenges in their own districts. [Past capstone projects](#) have increased local food procurement, introduced culturally relevant menu items, and enhanced employee training opportunities.

“Our goal is for Fellows to develop the operational knowledge and confidence needed to implement transformative changes in their districts,” says Chef Ann Foundation’s Chief Program

Officer Laura Smith. “By understanding how school food integrates into the larger food system, Fellows can drive change that has a ripple effect far beyond their local communities.”

The 2025 Fellowship cohort includes:

Arizona: Vanessa Bonfim (Avondale Elementary SD 44)

California: Albert Tse (San Francisco USD), Amber Green (Marysville Joint USD), Christina Lane (Washington USD), Dwayne Dionne (Alhambra USD), Gianmario Oddli (Morgan Hill USD), Jamie Anderson (Banta USD), Jeane Pacheco (Lodi Unified SD), Kamilah Williams (Menifee USD), Maly Pra (Dublin USD - *rejoining from the 2023 cohort*), Michelle Diaz (Gridley USD), Nicholas Svoboda (Galt Joint Union Elementary SD), Patience Boulais (Ocean View SD), Sepon Istepanyan (Live Oak USD)

Iowa: Sarah Veare-Whitehead (Eastern Allamakee Community Schools)

Massachusetts: Alexis Assad (Boston Public SD), Robert Shaheen (Worcester Public Schools)

Minnesota: Claire Nielsen (Wayzata Public Schools), Courtney Chapman (Minneapolis Public Schools), Kevin Trierweiler (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools)

New Mexico: Jesus Perez (Magdalena Municipal Schools), Marie Johnson (Farmington Municipal SD 5)

Oregon: Graham Schreiber (Portland Public Schools)

Texas: Maggie Mae Kennedy (Spring Branch ISD)

Washington: Laurie Ozanich (Selah SD 119)

Washington, DC: Jennifer Konish (DC Public Schools)

Wisconsin: Daisha Rand (Holmen SD), Dana Hoffman (Monona Grove SD), Joshua Perkins (Madison Metropolitan SD - *rejoining from the 2024 cohort*)

Chef Ann Foundation’s Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of founding partner Whole Kids, a project of Whole Foods Market Foundation; the Waverley Street Foundation; and the State of California, with additional support from the California Workforce Development Board’s High Road Training Partnership.

[Image](#): Fellows at onsite-culinary training.

About Chef Ann Foundation

[Chef Ann Foundation](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to ensure that school food professionals have the resources, funding, and support they need to provide fresh, healthy, delicious, scratch cooked meals that support the health of children and our planet. To date, the organization has reached more than 14,000 schools and 3.4 million kids with healthy school programming. Learn more on our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).