2019-20 ASPHN Obesity Mini Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (CoIIN)

Early Care and Education (ECE) Settings

Early care and education (ECE) settings — which include child care centers, family child care homes, prekindergarten classrooms, and Head Start programs — present a critical window for healthy early childhood development and obesity prevention. ECE is a priority setting for CDC's obesity prevention efforts in the United States. CDC is supporting the 2019-20 ASPHN Obesity Mini CoIIN focused on the popular farm to ECE strategy as an effective way to teach healthy habits at a young age.

Five States Selected

Five states were competitively selected to participate in the 2019-20 Mini CoIIN: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota and Ohio. They will utilize the CoIIN process to improve ECE nutrition environments, policies and /or practices utilizing a comprehensive farm to ECE approach. The Mini CoIIN will support the work of the five teams with regular webinars, networking opportunities, a diverse group of national experts providing technical assistance, a small annual stipend to support each state's CoIIN plan, annual in-person learning sessions and working directly with the state coalitions to help accelerate their progress in addressing one of the nation's most pressing health challenges — curbing childhood obesity.

The CoIIN Approach

All five state teams are focused on utilizing the CoIIN process to further their farm to ECE activities and have providers simultaneously include procurement and serving local food in the ECE setting, growing edible gardens, and embedding food and agricultural literacy into the content of the ECE program. Farm to ECE initiatives adapt to diverse ECE types, capacities and resources. The CoIIN approach helps states learn from one another how to make those adaptations and learn collaboratively how to track their progress toward common benchmarks to achieve their farm to ECE goals.

There are many common themes among the five selected states' CoIIN plans. They will be working on farm to ECE and how it aligns with CACFP, farm to ECE materials, family engagement, GO NAPSACC assessments, Head Start implementation, online resources, partnerships, Peer-to-Peer learning, policy changes, professional development, and Tribal Area interests.

"Shaping healthy habits for life."

The **Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN)** is a non-profit membership organization that provides state and national leadership on food and nutrition policy, programs and services aimed at improving the health of our population. ASPHN's membership is composed of more than 400 public health nutritionists located throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. ASPHN's vision is healthy eating and active living for everyone. You can find ASPHN on the web at **www.asphn.org** and on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/asphn**.

2019-20 ASPHN Obesity Mini CoIIN State Plans

✔ ALABAMA

Alabama will develop farm to ECE training materials and pilot these materials in a peer-to-peer learning collaborative, among ECE providers serving high need areas in Alabama. The collaborative will include opportunities to use assessment tools, tailored technical assistance and resource sharing. The pilot will provide the groundwork for Alabama to expand a farm to ECE collaborative model to additional programs.

✔ ARIZONA

Arizona will create and test farm to ECE online trainings that provide professional development, and align with CACFP, Arizona's Early Learning Standards and Arizona-based resources for ECE gardens, which include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education's rigorous criteria. The trainings will be offered with technical assistance and online resources geared towards parents and ECE providers, that guide them to easily integrate farm to ECE activities at home and at school

✔ COLORADO

Colorado will establish a farm to ECE state network with multisector partners and stakeholders, create a Colorado-specific farm to ECE nutrition education curriculum and address barriers to ECEs procuring local foods. Ultimately, they will advance policy and system developments related to farm to ECE and develop an online shared resource site for implementers of farm to ECE.

✔ MINNESOTA

Minnesota will support and expand farm to ECE by embedding it in the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) as a recommended strategy for the SHIP grantees. They will tailor existing educational materials for grantees and incorporate policy work into the recommendations used by SHIP coordinators working with ECE settings. Minnesota will also establish a database of farm to ECE activities in the state, that includes information on current farm to ECE providers and barriers grantees face.

✔ OHIO

Ohio will conduct an inventory and needs assessment among ECE providers, including current activities and barriers to the different aspects of farm to ECE. Based on assessment findings, they will disseminate relevant farm to ECE messaging, parent engagement, technical assistance and training. They will further build their farm to ECE "Great Apple Crunch" curriculum with activities linked to specific ECE learning standards. Ohio will create a database of relevant resources (garden supplies and equipment, volunteers, funding, Ohio Approved trainings, etc.) to help strengthen and expand farm to ECE in Ohio.

Additional Participation

In addition to these five impressive states plans, ASPHN had six other states submit competitive applications to the 2019-20 Mini CoIIN. These states have also been invited to join in the Mini CoIIN webinars and utilize the resources being created for the CoIIN. ASPHN and CDC are delighted by the interest, passion and support the 2019-20 ASPHN Obesity Mini CoIIN has received; and are looking forward to a productive Mini CoIIN.

For More Information

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