ASPHN’s Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Implementation Grant (FIG) was administered by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Coalitions in 10 states and the District of Columbia received Farm to ECE funding and training through the FIG from November 2020 through June 2023.

The majority of children who attend child care centers do not meet the recommended consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and daily nutrients...Therefore, it is important for child care centers to be supported as a primary agent for children to receive fresh fruits and vegetables, so that children can develop healthy food consumption habits that will contribute to positive health and education-related outcomes. — Farm to ECE Team Lead

Why Farm to Early Care and Education?

Healthy Habits
Helps children develop healthier eating habits for long-term wellbeing

Hands-On Learning
Involves children in hands-on growing, farm field trips, and classroom visits from local farmers

Better Food Access
Improves children’s and ECE educators’ access to nutrient-rich local foods

Sustainable and Just
Supports environmentally sound, sustainable, and socially just food systems

Fig Farm to ECE Programs Have Impact:

- 199,894 children
- 4,334 ECE sites
- 8,445 ECE educators
- 382 mini-grants awarded to ECEs and farmers to support Farm to ECE accomplishments and activities; demand for mini-grants far exceeded funding capacity, with over 1,450 applicants total
- $4 million in funding outside of the FIG, increasing the long-term sustainability of coalitions’ Farm to ECE work
- Over $4 million in funding outside of the FIG, increasing the long-term sustainability of coalitions’ Farm to ECE work
- Developed freely available Farm to ECE websites, tools, and resources

Fig Funding and Infrastructure

- Awarded 382 mini-grants to ECEs and farmers to support farms to ECE accomplishments and activities
- Demand for mini-grants far exceeded funding capacity, with over 1,450 applicants total

Fig Tools and Trainings

- Hosted virtual and in-person farm to ECE trainings for ECE educators, farmers, and food producers
- Created culturally tailored trainings, resources, and tools that have been translated into Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Navajo, and Spanish

In Their Own Words

“The majority of children who attend child care centers do not meet the recommended consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and daily nutrients...Therefore, it is important for child care centers to be supported as a primary agent for children to receive fresh fruits and vegetables, so that children can develop healthy food consumption habits that will contribute to positive health and education-related outcomes.” — Farm to ECE Team Lead