Tribal Nation and Community Collaborations with State Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalitions

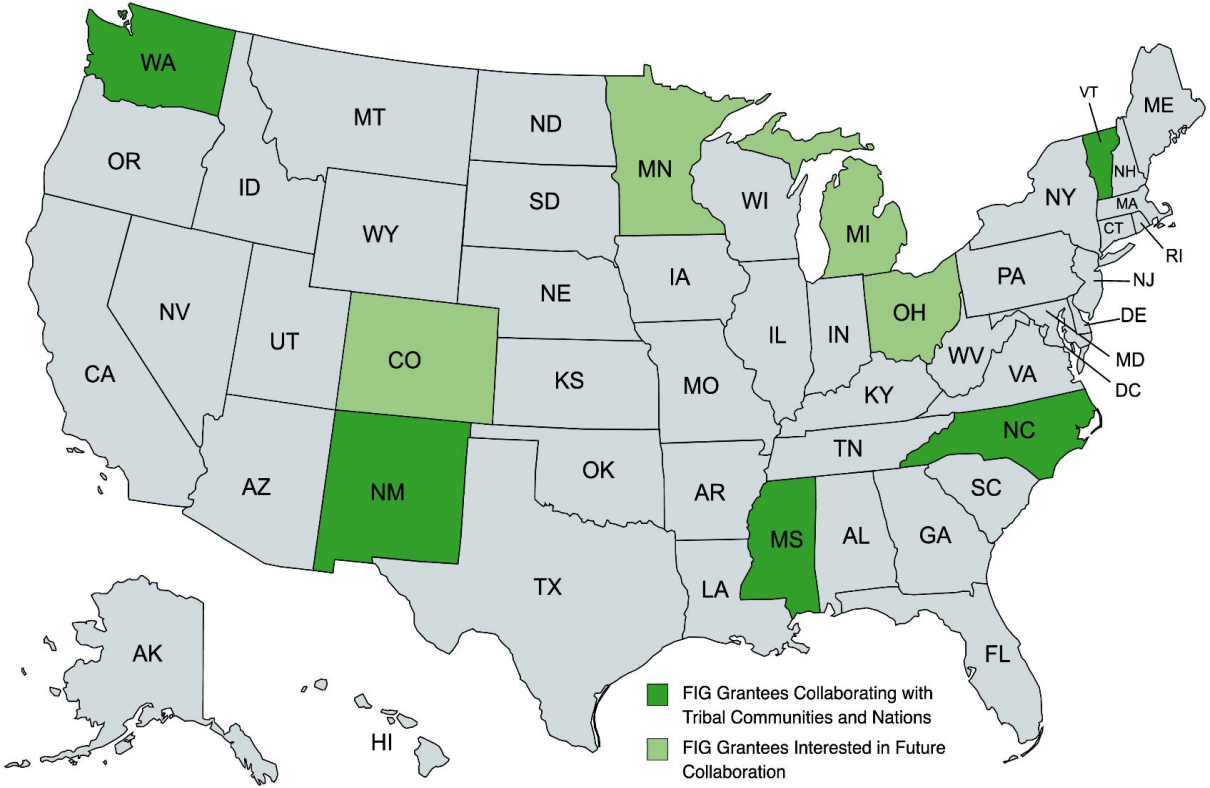
With funding from CDC-DNPAO* and in collaboration with National Farm to School Network (NFSN), the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, administered the 2020-23 Farm to ECE Implementation Grant (FIG). The FIG provided funding and technical support to 11 state grantees to strengthen their state-level Farm to ECE initiatives with a specific equity focus. The FIG expanded and strengthened Farm to ECE statewide by creating policy, systems and environment changes and collaborating with diverse state partners.

Several grantees took the opportunity to build collaborations with Tribal nations and communities located, at least in part, within their states. This overview includes descriptions of:

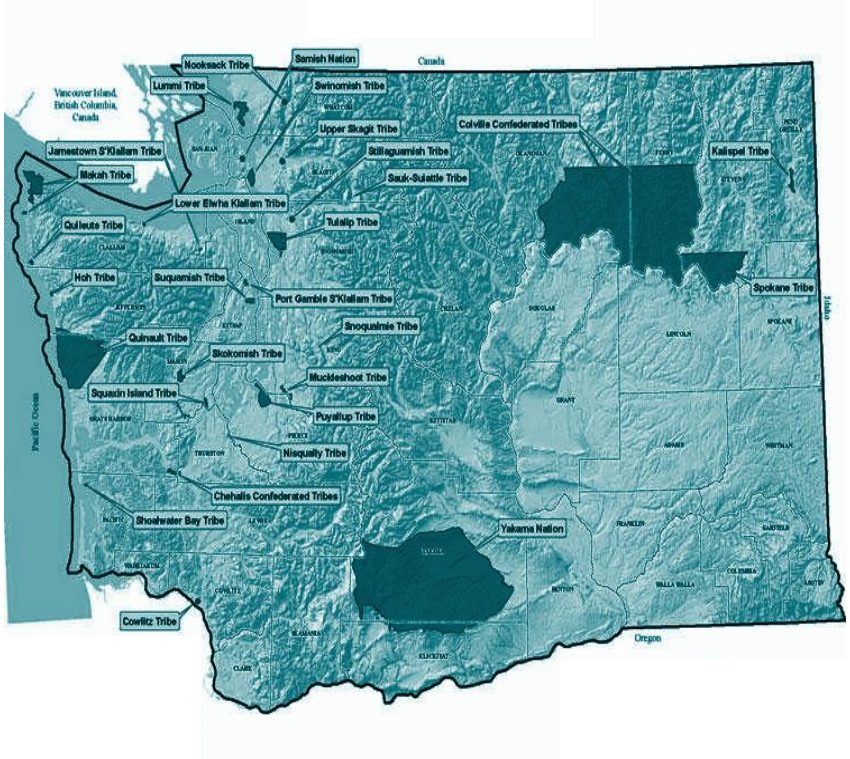
- collaborative work FIG grantees and Tribes did together,
- lessons grantees learned in the collaborative process,
- resources collaborations found helpful or insightful, and
- videos for those wanting to learn more about Farm to ECE and Tribal partners.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO)

ASPHN Farm to ECE Grantees Engaged in Tribal Nation or Community Collaborations



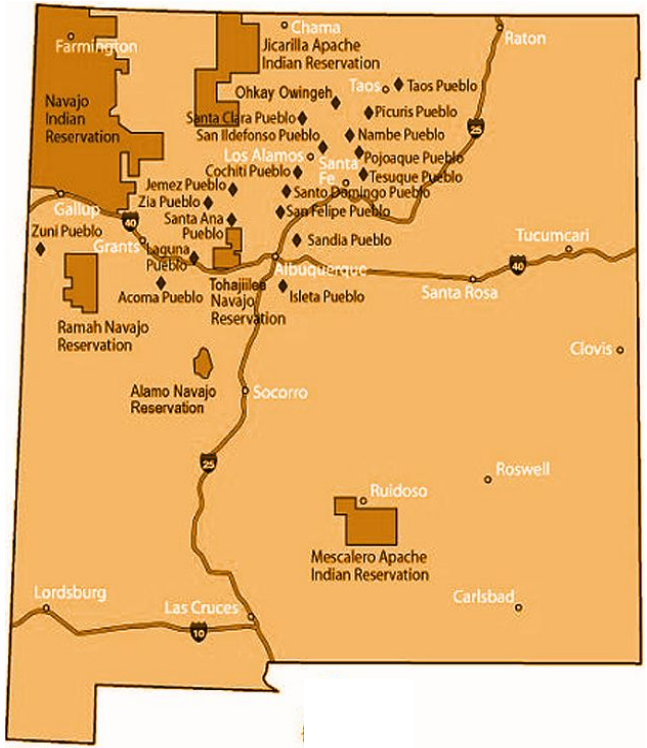
Washington State



Multiple prongs of the Washington FIG work plan, 2020-2023, included collaborative work with Tribes.

- Increased availability of trauma-informed, culturally-responsive and relevant Farm to ECE training, tools, and curricula by supporting resource development for Tribal ECE programs and offering a website dedicated to such resources.
- Ensured training, tools, and curricula included traditional foods and languages for each Tribe.
- Maintained a steering group with Tribal nation or community early learning leaders to continue to learn more about Tribe Farm to ECE-related activities, programs, resource needs, and challenges.
- Addressed barriers and needs related to Tribal nations or communities and state rules or systems.
- Offered scholarships and grants, and prioritizing Tribal ECEs within the selection process.

New Mexico



Multiple prongs of the New Mexico FIG work plan, 2020-2023, included collaborative work with Tribes.

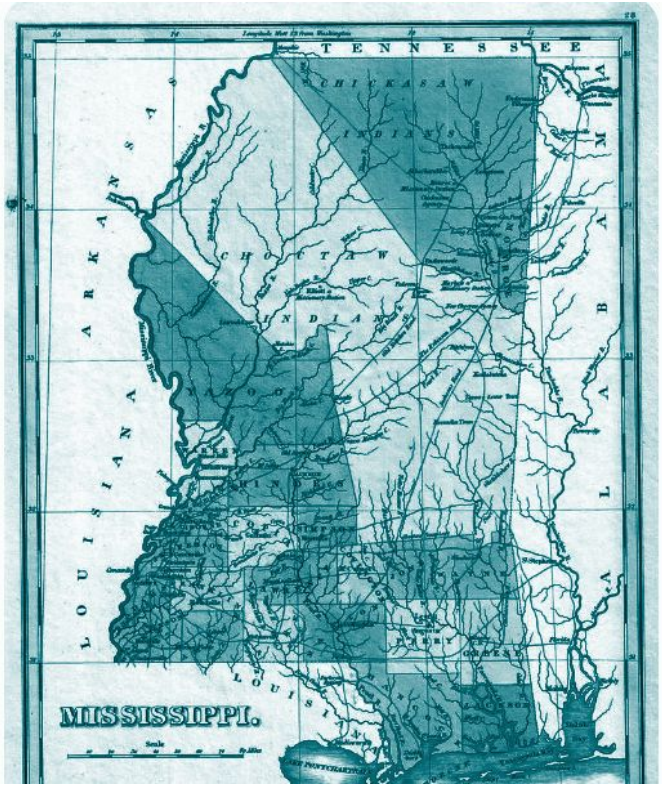
- Increased culturally responsive and relevant Farm to ECE trainings, opportunities, and resources for Tribal preschools.
- Awarded multiple Farm to ECE grants to Tribal preschools.
- Helped Tribal preschools apply awarded Farm to ECE grant funds to local food procurement and infrastructure changes, such as purchasing materials, garden beds, or sun shades.
- Listened and learned from Tribal partners on how to further support Farm to ECE-related activities in Tribal nations or communities.

North Carolina

The North Carolina FIG work plan, 2020-2023, included collaborative work with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina.

- Partnered with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians through a mini grant program.
- Created a success story video together with Cherokee educators highlighting Farm to ECE activities in a pre-Kindergarten program.
- Partnered with Cherokee educators to host a Garden Day and launch Farm to ECE at a Head Start program.
- Collaborated and learned from Cherokee educators on how to leverage Farm to ECE to teach children Cherokee culture, language, and stories.

Mississippi



The Mississippi FIG work plan, 2020-2023, included collaborative work with the Choctaw Tribe.

- Strengthened Tribal collaborations and trust, as well as capacity among the Choctaw Tribe early childhood educators who are interested in or actively engaging in Farm to ECE or Farm to ECE-related activities.
- Built collaborations with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Fresh Produce Initiative, which provides produce for its schools and students, ages 2-18 years.
- Planned and collaborated for a future Tribal early childhood and pre-Kindergarten mini grant Farm to ECE program.

FIG Grantees Share Lessons Learned with Tribal Collaborations

ASPHN FARM TO ECE GRANTEE PROGRAMS

- Communicate with transparency and clarity. Explain interest in collaborating, and how a collaboration may benefit your organization and the Tribal ECEs.
- Respect Tribal culture and autonomy, e.g., ask how your work might fit in with or might conflict with Tribal culture.
- Avoid over-structuring work with Tribal partners.
- Remain a consistent ally and keep asking, “how can we help?”
- Create common definitions.
- Identify Farm to ECE interests, needs and assets in each Tribal collaboration; but ensure Tribal partners guide process.
- Understand community and state systems that impact Farm to ECE in Tribal regions.
- Share resources – intellectual, material, and financial - transparently.
- Listen, be curious, and learn. The process is as important as the outcome.

Farm to ECE and Tribal Nation and Community Resources Grantees Found Valuable

First Nations' Development Institute's 2021 **Directory of Resources**: Native Farm to School

Healthy Traditional Alaskan Foods in **Food Service and Donation Programs**

Indigenous Early Learning and **Child Care Framework**

Indigenous NH **Harvest Calendar** and Introduction

Intertribal Agriculture Council **American Indian Food's Program** and Directory

Qaqamiiĝux̂ **Head Start Traditional Foods** - Preschool Curriculum

Qaqamiiĝux̂ **Preschool Curriculum** Resources

Good Grub's **Wild Foods and Medicines** Free Resource Page

Native American **Food Sovereignty** Alliance

Northwest Indian College's on **Traditional Food Principles and Values**

United States Department of Agriculture: Serving Traditional **Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs**

WA Farm to School/ECE Network's: Tribal **Traditional Foods and Foodways Resources**

Farm to ECE and Tribal Nation and Community Recordings to Learn More!

Indigenous Foods in ECEs-
NFSN webinar with the Institute for Agriculture Trade and Policy, and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association discussing indigenous foods in ECEs.

Food Security and Food Resiliency in AI/AN Community (Passcode: 4jaut%2x begin at 45:00) -
With Tara Maudrie discussing food sovereignty and insecurity in urban American Indian / Alaskan Native Communities.

Qaqamiiĝux̂ Film Series on Harvesting and Preparing Traditional Foods -
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association film series explores how to harvest and prepare traditional foods from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.

QAQAMIIĜUX̂ Head Start Traditional Foods Preschool Curriculum -
ASPHN FIG Webinar Series with Speakers from QAQAMIIĜUX̂ Head Start.

Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (32:00-1:26) -
With Shiloh Maples from the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance.

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