WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

Click here for a full list of Farm to Early Care and Education benefits.

ASPHN’S FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT (FIG)

Sowing the Seeds for Healthy Futures in MISSISSIPPI!

The Mississippi Farm to ECE Coalition was partially supported by a grant administered by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from November 2020 to June 2023. Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) is an innovative evidence-based approach that gives young children increased exposure and access to local produce, opportunities to learn about nutrition and agriculture, and hands-on learning through gardening. ECEs refer to preschools, child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, and more.

ASPHN acknowledges the CDC’s support of this work but note that CDC did not author nor endorse this resource. Further details can be found here:

To learn more about Farm to ECE in Mississippi — click here.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The coalition aims to develop professional development and nutrition education resources for ECE programs serving young children and their families, and support ECE programs, farmers, and families in connecting and streamlining the purchase and preparation of Mississippi grown foods."

— Mississippi FIG Team Lead

THE MISSISSIPPI FARM TO ECE COALITION HAS IMPACTED:

*3,400 children
*79 ECEs
*125 ECE educators

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS between MS Departments of Child Nutrition, Agriculture, Health, Childcare Licensing, and Human Services, MS Farm to School Network, and The Partnership for Healthy Mississippi

CREATED a MS Farm to ECE STRATEGIC PLAN and built the Golden Magnolia RECOGNITION PROGRAM for Farm to ECE innovators across MS

PROVIDED MINI GRANTS to local farmers and food producers, PRIORITIZING BLACK-OWNED FARMS

DEVELOPED a LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT TRAINING with farmers and ECE educators

DEVELOPED a MENTORING PROGRAM in which ECE educators with Farm to ECE experience mentor new to Farm to ECE adopters

USED GO NAPSACC assessment to determine that 93% of ECEs IMPROVED the quality of their child care environments after participating in Farm to ECE

Mississippi

INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

STARTED a MS Farm to ECE Website, Infographic, resources, and trainings

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

HOSTED a local FOOD PROCUREMENT TRAINING with farmers and ECE educators

PROVIDED virtual Farm TOURS, making DEMONSTRATIONS, TRAINING, and ECE SITE VISITS from local farmers and Farm to ECE coalition members

To learn more about Farm to ECE in Mississippi — click here.