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 NEW MEXICO!

The New Mexico Grown 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.

According to the CDC, 1 IN 2 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily vegetable and 1 IN 3 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily fruit.

Farm to ECE INCREASES children’s consumption of fruits and vegetables by ONE DAILY SERVING.

Farm to ECE programs can INCREASE THE SUCCESS of Farm to School programs by DECREASING PLATE WASTE by as much as 66%.

1,396 children
23 preschools
233 preschool providers

THE NEW MEXICO GROWN COALITION HAS IMPACTED:

PROVIDED evidence-based information that the NM STATE LEGISLATURE used to budget $300,000 to the Early Childhood Education and Care Department for preschools to purchase NM GROWN produce, meat, and minimally-processed products, which was approved for FY23

ADOPTED a standardized interagency PROCUREMENT SYSTEM including trainings, approved supplier program, and tracking system for local food

EXPANDED Farm to Preschool programming in diverse underserved areas of NM with strong HISPANIC, NATIVE AMERICAN, and US BORDER populations

EXPANDED the NM GROWN COALITION to include state agencies, non-profits, community organizations, teachers, preschools, schools, and senior centers

CREATED the NM GROWN GOLDEN CHILE AWARDS to recognize and celebrate innovative Farm to Cafeteria efforts in NM – 12 ECEs have won this award

CREATED resources in English and Spanish, including Farm to Preschool TRAININGS, ACTION PLANNER, and SHOPPING GUIDE WITH LIVE LINKS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“The NM Grown Coalition is improving nutrition programs to ensure all New Mexicans have access to high quality, nutritious, and culturally meaningful foods. This is a strong foundation on which to scale Farm to Cafeteria programming statewide and expand access to these valuable markets for New Mexico’s growers seeking to sustain farming as a way of life.”

— New Mexico FIG Team Lead

INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

New Mexico

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“Thank you to the NM State Legislature for supporting the NM Grown funding at $300,000, which gives every child in NM a chance to learn healthy habits that will last a lifetime.”

— New Mexico FIG Team Lead