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 WASHINGTON!

The Washington State Farm to ECE Alliance 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. ECE refers 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: [link]

“[Through Farm to ECE] the kids are able to be exposed to part of our culture. We love drumming and singing, but [food] is also another way to express what it is to be Suquamish, or Native American, or Indigenous.”

— Washington Tribal ECE Educator

THE WASHINGTON STATE FARM TO ECE ALLIANCE HAS IMPACTED:

9,607 children
3,228 ECEs
5,133 ECE providers

THE ALLIANCE’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Learning Opportunities

CREATED a comprehensive Farm to ECE ONLINE TRAINING with continuing education credits that was taken by approximately 1,133 ECE providers

SUPPORTED Tribal ECE programs in using TRADITIONAL FOODS AND FOODWAYS to teach students about their culture

CREATED a COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE to bring together farmers, food hubs, and gardening organizations

WORKED with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a dedicated FARM TO CHILD NUTRITION SPECIALIST position

Tools and Resources

ADAPTED Farm to ECE resources, trainings, and self-assessment to be more culturally relevant and translated materials into SPANISH to increase accessibility

DEVELOPED Washington Farm to ECE SUCCESS STORIES

USED a Farm to ECE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL to help ECE assess their progress and identify new Farm to ECE goals

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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To learn more about Farm to ECE in Washington, click here.