WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

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%.

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

THE COLORADO FARM TO CHILD COLLABORATIVE HAS IMPACTED:

1,923 children
83 ECEs
250 ECE educators

Community Building

ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE to strengthen ECE’s local food procurement and shorten supply chains for farmers

ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS between the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Community Supported Agriculture programs

Held MASTER GARDENER trainings to support ECEs in establishing sustainable gardens

Funding Strategies

LEVERAGED multiple FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES to support Farm to ECE

FUNDED FARM TO ECE MINI GRANTS for 30 ECEs

The Colorado Farm to Child Collaboration 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.

Join the Colorado Farm to Child Collaborative to learn how you can grow Farm to Child at your organization today. Sign up here!