FARM TO ECE:
Sowing the Seeds for HEALTHY FUTURES!

ASPHN FARM TO ECE GRANTEE PROGRAMS

The Farm to Eary Care and Education Capacity Building Grant (CABBAGE) was administered by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CABBAGE was created for CDC REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) recipients. Four REACH organizations in Michigan, North Carolina, and Nebraska received Farm to ECE funding and training through the CABBAGE from January 2021 to July 2023.

WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD
Provides children with healthy and locally sourced meals, snacks, and food tastings

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Increases children's acceptance of, preferences for, and consumption of fruits and vegetables

FOOD EDUCATION
Teaches children about nutrition, growing food, and cooking

HEALTHY HABITS
Helps children develop healthier eating habits for long term wellbeing

HANDS-ON LEARNING
Engages children in hands-on gardening, farm field trips, and classroom visits from local farmers

LOCAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT
Supports the local economy and food system, including local food producers

ENRICHED LEARNING
Provides young children with an opportunity for social, emotional, and experiential learning

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Increases family engagement with ECEs and the local food system

SUSTAINABLE AND JUST
Supports environmentally sound, sustainable, and socially just food systems

BETTER FOOD ACCESS
Improves children's and ECE educators' access to nutrient-rich local foods

CABBAGE FARM TO ECE PROGRAMS IMPACTED:*

945 children *estimated

19 ECEs *estimated

107 ECE educators *estimated

13 local farms *estimated

CABBAGE FARM TO ECE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CABBAGE Funding and Infrastructure

PROVIDED MINI GRANTS, TRAININGS, AND RESOURCES which increased ECEs' capacity to implement Farm to ECE

CREATED FOOD HUBS and **DELIVERY SYSTEMS** to connect ECEs with local farmers and food producers

PROMOTED REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS like **10 CENTS A MEAL** that provide incentives and support to ECEs that purchase local foods

CABBAGE Tools and Trainings

PROVIDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT to help ECE educators teach children about food, establish gardens, and procure and serve local foods

PROVIDED HARVEST OF THE MONTH KITS for ECEs which included **KITCHEN TOOLS** and **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS** needed for food tastings

HELPED ECE educators increase parent engagement with Farm to ECE **FAMILY EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOURCES, AND ACTIVITIES**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The majority of children who attend child care centers do not meet the recommended consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and daily nutrients...Therefore, it is important for child care centers to be supported as a primary agent for children to receive fresh fruits and vegetables, so that children can develop healthy food consumption habits that will contribute to positive health and education-related outcomes."

— Farm to ECE Team Lead

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