Sowing the Seeds for HEALTHY FUTURES!

FARM TO ECE:
The Farm to Early 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.

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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

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

CABBAGE FARM TO ECE PROGRAMS IMPACTED:

- Provided grants, trainings, and resources which increased ECEs' capacity to implement Farm to ECE
- Provided technical support to help ECE educators teach children about food, establish gardens, and procure and serve local foods
- 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
- Helped ECE educators increase parent engagement with Farm to ECE family events, communications, resources, and activities
- Provided harvest of the month kits for ECEs which included kitchen tools and educational materials needed for food tastings
- Provided mind grants, trainings, and resources which increased ECE capacity to implement Farm to ECE

WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

Locally sourced food provides children with healthy and locally sourced meals, snacks, and food tastings.

Enriched learning provides young children with an opportunity for social, emotional, and experiential outcomes.

Family engagement increases family engagement with ECEs and the local food system.

Sustainable and just learning supports environmentally sound, sustainable, and socially just food systems.

Hands-on learning engages children in hands-on gardening, farm field trips, and classroom visits from local farmers.

Healthy habits help children develop healthier eating habits for long-term wellbeing.

Food education teaches children about nutrition, growing food, and cooking.

Fruits and vegetables increase children's acceptance of, preferences for, and consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Healthy food education fosters children's interest in nutrition, growing food, and cooking.

Local economic support supports the local economy and food system, including local food producers.

CABBAGE FARM TO ECE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 945 children
- 19 ECes
- 107 ECE educators
- 13 local farms

CABBAGE FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Provided mind grants, trainings, and resources which increased ECE capacity to implement Farm to ECE

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

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