FARM TO ECE:

Sowing the Seeds for Healthy Futures in **MICHIGAN!**

ASPHN FARM TO ECE GRANTEE PROGRAMS

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan was a CABBAGE recipient working on Farm to ECE in Southeast Michigan. The Farm to Early Care and Education Capacity Building Grant (CABBAGE) was administered by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from January 2021 to July 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.

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.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN HAS IMPACTED:*

71 children *estimated

6 ECEs *estimated

6 ECE educators *estimated

2 local farms *estimated

THE FOUNDATION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Integrative Strategies

PROMOTED 10 CENTS A MEAL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM and provided **TECHNICAL SUPPORT** to ECEs that purchase local foods

SUPPORTED ECEs in modifying their menus to focus on **CULTURALLY RELEVANT LOCAL FOODS** and creating Farm to ECE **POLICIES**

HELPED educators identify **FAMILY NEEDS** related to food or gardening, and created Farm to ECE **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES**

CREATED an **ACTIVE FACEBOOK GROUP** to help connect and inspire educators

Learning Opportunities

SUPPORTED ECEs via Farm to ECE **TRAININGS, ONE ON ONE COACHING** for educators, and a Farm to ECE **LEARNING COLLABORATIVE** rich with social media networking opportunities that educators loved

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION® of Michigan

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Last year, Farmer Heidi brought the children an herb they'd never tried before, flowering garlic chives. The kids loved it! They loved it so much in fact, it was one of the first plants suggested when we started discussing what we'd grow in our greenhouse this year."

— Michigan ECE Educator

Nourish the minds and bodies of children and families by supporting Farm to ECE!

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ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITIONISTS

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