



ASPHN FARM TO ECE WEBINARS



Growing the Farm to Early Care and Education Movement: Brief Series Overview with Policy Equity Group (PEG)

January 27, 2026

Speakers:

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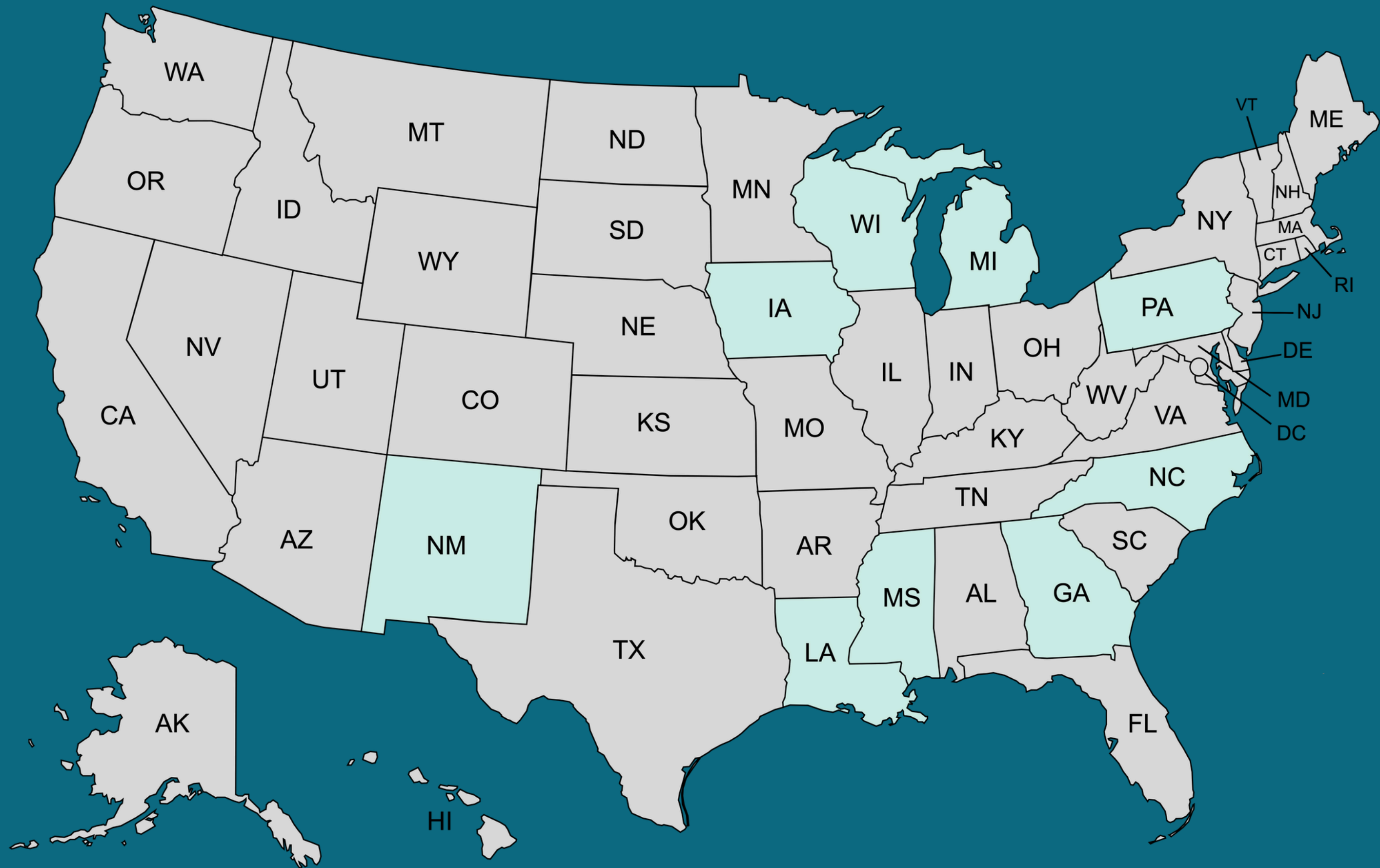
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The presentation contents and remarks shared today are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



Setting the Table

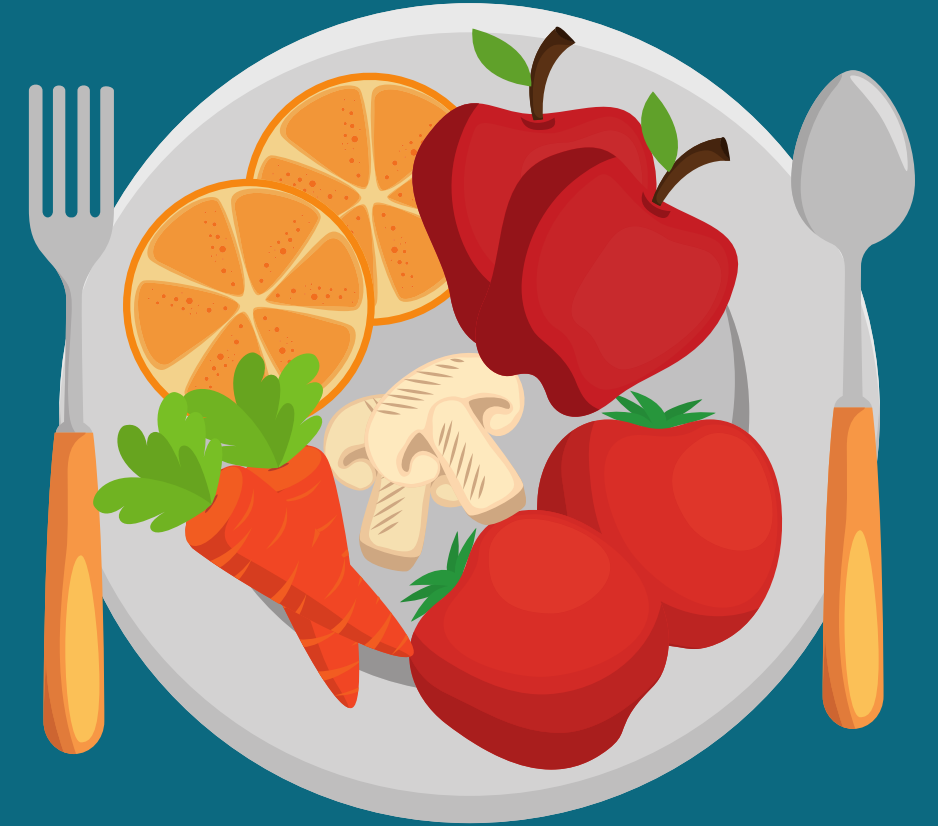
Farm to ECE includes:

- Nutrition education
- On-site gardening
- Local food procurement
- Family engagement



Benefits of Farm to ECE

-  Provides proper nutrition
-  Develops taste preferences
-  Creates positive experiences with food
-  Connects people to local & regional food systems
-  Strengthens local & regional food systems
-  Reduces emissions associated with food storage & transit



The Roadmap for Growing the Farm to Early Care and Education Movement



Agenda
Setting

Engaging
Stakeholders

Proof-of-
Concept

Local Food
Procurement

Developing an
Evidence Base

Leveraging Key Policies



Agenda Setting & Engaging Stakeholders

- Core partners
 - ECE providers
 - Local farmers and food systems specialists
 - ECE advocacy organizations
 - Food systems organizations
- Forming your “why”
 - Economic development for farmers
 - Child health outcomes
 - Nature-based learning



Proofs-of-Concept & Pilot Sites

- Transform an idea into reality
- Real-life experience of Farm to ECE
- Showcase ECE programs engaged in Farm to ECE to families, policymakers, and others
- Can highlight best practices or expertise in Farm to ECE



Local Food Procurement

- Local foods served in ECE programs
- Current food system does not usually support small, local farmers
- ECE programs struggle with limited capacity
- “Little people, little orders”



State-Level Local Food Procurement Programs



Michigan 10 Cents a Meal (No Longer Funded)

- Additional 10 cents for the purchase of local food
- Improves nutrition, inspires healthy eating habits
- Invests in farmers and food producers



New Mexico Grown

- State program provides funds to purchase local foods
- Connects local food producers and ECE programs
- Focused on smaller-scale producers



Community Innovations in North Carolina



Mobile Produce Van

- Aggregate produce from multiple farms
- Families, ECE staff, and programs can order online
- Deliveries are distributed by the local CCR&R

Wilkes County

Wake County

Wayne County



Centralized Kitchen

- Produce is sourced from a food hub that processes and prepares the local food
- The centralized kitchen utilizes the prepared produce in meals
- Meals are delivered and distributed to Head Start and Early Head Start



Collaborative Ordering

- ECE programs coordinate menu planning and create orders that can later be distributed as smaller orders to ECE sites, allowing the programs to meet order minimums and avoid delivery fees



Developing an Evidence Base

- Demonstrate the impact of Farm to ECE
- Quantitative data and qualitative stories
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Used to garner support for Farm to ECE



Leveraging Key Policy Opportunities

**State Legislative
Sessions**

**USDA Programs
(e.g., Patrick Leahy
Farm to School)**

Farm Bill

**Quality Rating and
Improvement
Systems**

**Child Care
Development Fund
(CCDF)**

**Child Nutrition
Reauthorization
(CNR)**

**Child & Adult Care
Food Program
(CACFP)**

Head Start

**Preschool
Development Grant
Birth to Five**





QUESTIONS?

Resources & Briefs

Download here!



Developing an Evidence Base to Sustain and Grow a Farm to ECE Movement (2026)

Developed with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation



Local Food to Little Forks: Advancing the Purchase of Local Foods in Early Care and Education Settings (2026)

Developed with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation



Demonstrating the Effectiveness of Farm to ECE: Establishing Pilot Sites and Proofs-of-Concept to Support Systems Change (2026)

Developed with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation



A Roadmap for Growing the Farm to Early Care and Education Movement (2026)

Developed with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Questions? Email HannahP@PolicyEquity.com





UPCOMING FARM TO ECE EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



FEBRUARY 10, 2026, 2-3:00PM ET
ASPHN'S FARM TO ECE EVALUATION WEBINAR
SERIES

Landscape Assessments - Understanding the Farm to
ECE Environment in your State. [Register Here](#)



MARCH 10, 2026, 2-3:00PM ET
ASPHN'S FARM TO ECE EVALUATION WEBINAR
SERIES

Simple Approaches to Measuring the Impact of
Farm to ECE Efforts. [Register Here](#)



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FARM TO ECE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For support with coalitions, evaluation, or
implementation, reach out for CDC-funded TA -
Emia@asphn.org



THANK YOU

