



# Leveraging CACFP For Farm to ECE

Food Research & Action Center

# Who We Are

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States.



# What We Do

- Conduct research to document the extent of hunger and identify effective solutions
- Advocate for federal, state and local public policies that protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs
- Provide coordination, training, technical assistance, and support on hunger-related issues

# What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

CACFP is a federal nutrition program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family child care homes, and afterschool programs.

## Benefits of the Child and Adult Care Food Program



Reduces Food Insecurity



Improves Dietary Intake and Health



Protects Against Obesity



Boosts Learning and Development



Boosts Providers' Income and Services



Strengthens the Quality of Child Care



Acts as Stimulus for Local Economies





# Leveraging CACFP for Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE)

CACFP can support all three core elements of farm to ECE CACFP can:

- Defray the costs associated with local food procurement
- Help pay for garden development and maintenance
- Cover some nutrition education costs

## CORE ELEMENTS OF **FARM to ECE**



# Leveraging CACFP for Farm to ECE - Purchasing

Local foods can be purchased from:

- Farmers Markets
- Food Hubs
- CSAs
- And more!

Be sure to get a receipt with:

- Date of purchase
- Name of vendor/farmer
- Item cost
- Amount of food
- Total cost



# Leveraging CACFP for Farm to ECE - Gardens

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Use CACFP for Gardening Items including\*

- Seeds
- Fertilizer
- Watering cans
- Rakes
- Garden plot rentals

\*CACFP can be used as long as produce grown is used as part of reimbursable meals or nutrition education



# Leveraging CACFP for Farm to ECE - Education

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- Garden products can be used for nutrition education or taste testing
- Use Team Nutrition resources for agricultural and nutrition education lessons



# Leveraging CACFP for Farm to ECE: State-Level Administration

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Employ farm to  
ECE  
coordinators

Provide State-  
level training  
and technical  
assistance

Organize state-  
wide convenings

Create guidance  
materials

Collaborate on  
regional farm to  
ECE efforts



# Report: Enhancing Young Children's Access to Local Foods and Farm to ECE: Federal Funding Opportunities

## Funding guide sections

- Overview of funding source
- Farm to ECE allowable uses
- Strategies for action
- Funding timeline
- Case study examples



# Opportunities for Action

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Foster peer learning groups and community coaching



Support local- and state-level local food procurement incentives for CACFP



Incorporate farm to ECE and local food procurement training into existing CACFP trainings and site visit infrastructure



Encourage State agencies to use their State Administrative Expense Funds to provide training and technical assistance on farm to ECE

# Connect With Us!

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