

Leveraging CACFP for Farm to ECE

CACFP can be leveraged to support multiple core elements of Farm to Early Care and Education.



Procurement

CACFP can be used to purchase local foods from:

- Farmers Markets
- Food Hubs
- Community Supported Agriculture Models
- Other Food Vendors

As long as produce grown is used as part of reimbursable meals or nutrition education, CACFP can be used for gardening items including:

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

Gardening



Education

Garden products can be used for nutrition education or taste testing.

Providers can use USDA Team Nutrition resources for agricultural and nutrition education lessons.

CACFP state agencies can use of State Administrative Expense Funds to support farm to ECE coordination and other activities.

Funds can be used for state-level activities, including:

- Produce state-level farm to ECE guidance materials
- Create farm to ECE coordinators that provide State-level training and technical assistance
- Conduct statewide trainings and organize statewide meetings to disseminate program information and encourage sharing of best practices
- Collaborate on regional farm to ECE efforts

State-Level Coordination

