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**

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

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

**Education**

**State-Level Coordination**

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