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.
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
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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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