



Growing Self-Reliant Communities: Farm to ECE Capacity Grant Application

Pennsylvania Early Learning Programs,

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) seeks to support 10-50 Early Learning programs in Pennsylvania to increase their capacity to implement farm to ECE strategies that help meet the needs of children and families during and after the COVID 19 pandemic.

Farm to ECE is a group of activities and strategies that offer increased access to healthy, local foods, gardening opportunities and food-based learning activities to improve the quality of Early Learning programs and improve the lives of the program's children, families and staff.

Now, more than ever, farm to ECE strategies can promote long-term equity and resiliency in our communities and shared food systems. Farm to School practices include activities that fall under three main categories: food and agriculture education, hands-on gardening, community links to the local farming sectors and use of local foods for meals, taste tests or events. Farm to school works well in all types of early care and education settings, inclusive of, but not limited to, preschools, Head Start programs centers, family Head Start programs homes, home-visiting, Head Start/ Early Head Start and programs in K-12 school districts. Farm to ECE activities support healthy eating habits, a connection to local food and agricultural communities, and teach children how food grows.

The funding for the capacity building grants is flexible. PHSA expects that grant applications will be based on the principle of locally designed options.

PHSA expects each grantee to complete the Go NAPSAC farm to early learning self assessment to assist in programs reviewing their strengths and where they might improve their farm to early care and education capacity.

PHSA is partnering with The Food Trust to offer technical assistance with select program's grant planning and implementation.

All grants applications must be completed using the Ready, Set, Grow, [Racial Equity Framework](#)¹.



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PHSA

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) is a non-profit membership organization. We advocate for Head Start families, programs, and staff in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association creates ONE CLEAR, POWERFUL VOICE for children and families who are economically challenged. We embrace diversity and unify the early childhood community by being a responsive, thriving organization, leading the charge for training, information sharing, advocacy and comprehensive services.

Pennsylvania Head Start Association's purpose is to maximize the cumulative talents of Early Head Start/Head Start parents, staff, administrators and friends to collectively improve the future for economically challenged children, families and communities, by providing quality leadership, training, information and advocacy at the local, state, regional and national levels.

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, a non-partisan association serving as a voice for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children and families.

PHSA members include over 95% of the Head Start grantees serving yearly over 37,000 Head Start children and their families.

The Food Trust

The Food Trust is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 with the mission of making healthy food available to all. The Food Trust's comprehensive approach includes improving food environments and teaching nutrition education in schools; working with corner store owners to increase healthy offerings and helping customers make healthier choices; managing farmers markets in communities that lack access to affordable produce; and encouraging grocery store development in underserved communities. The Food Trust works with ECE sites across Pennsylvania and New Jersey providing a farm to ECE train the trainer program, which includes resources and technical assistance to build farm to ECE strategies into site operations. For more information about our programs, please visit our website at www.thefoodtrust.org



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Farm to Early Care and Education

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Purpose Statement

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) seeks to support 10-50 Early Learning programs in Pennsylvania to increase their capacity to implement farm to ECE strategies that help meet the needs of children and families during and after the COVID 19 pandemic.

Eligible Entities

Pennsylvania Early Learning Programs and Organizations Partnering with Early Learning Programs to Develop Farm to Early Learning Activity Capacity.

Application Selection

Complete applications will be evaluated considering, but not limited to, the following priorities:

- *Racial Equity:* Applicants serving communities lacking access to healthy foods will be prioritized particularly those most impacted by racial inequities. Using our [Racial Equity Framework](#)¹, our Farm to ECE work has shared goals for all children & families, recognizing the need for targeted strategies that take into account specific barriers to food access. While our focus on race is explicit, it is not exclusive. The framework acknowledges the deep interconnections and complex interactions between various forms of oppression. We are working to develop and apply a critical understanding of how children, farmers, families, ECE staff





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and others are differently situated according to race, ethnicity, place, socioeconomic status, immigration status, and language, and more.

- *Sustainability:* A project or program that builds the capacity of programs to implement Farm to ECE activities that is sustainable after the grant funds are used.
- *Geographic diversity and variety of ECE settings/program types:* We are seeking to award providers from across the state representing a variety of ECE settings. Geographic diversity and ECE program types may factor into overall award decisions.

Use of Funds

Award money may be spent on costs associated with implementing sustainable systems to support the following activities:

- *The development of partnerships with WIC, Farmers markets or other community stakeholder to increase access to affordable local produce to the site*
- *Locally grown food for taste tests and food preparation with children*
- *Edible plants in gardens, on windowsills, or with indoor grow lights (such as potting soil, containers, seeds, watering cans, etc.)*
- *Educational activities that support exploration of local food, agriculture, gardens, and nutrition*
- *Purchase/development of gardens*
- *Resources or education for families and the community (i.e. sending bags of local food home with families, related information, activities/workshops, seeds, materials, etc.)*
- *Purchasing of local foods for meals and/or snacks*
- *Developing capacity to serve as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) distribution site.*
- *Establishing a Farmer's Market at your program*
- *Establishing your program as a WIC check distribution site*
- *Increasing access to local foods for program, staff, and/or families*
- *Other locally designed activities to increase your programs Farm to ECE capacities*





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Grant Awards

Successful grants will be funded for a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$5000.

Timeline

March 10	Second Round RFP Released
April 15	Application Due
April 21	Awards announced

If selected for the award, PHSA requires grantees to:

- [Complete the Go NAP SACC Pre and Post Assessments](#)

Application Instructions

We are committed to celebrating and supporting farm to early care efforts in a wide variety of settings. If you have questions or are interested in applying but feel you need assistance with any aspect of the application, please contact:

Blair Hyatt
Pennsylvania Head Start Association
blair@paheadstart.org

Please fill out [the short application online](#) by COB on March 22, 2021. The application questions are listed below and can be filled out and then mailed or emailed to PHSA. Mailed applications must be postmarked by March 22, 2021.

Email: blair@paheadstart.org
Mail: Pennsylvania Head Start Association
415 Market St. Suite 206A
Harrisburg, PA 17101

1 <http://www.pareadysetgrow.org/racial-equity-framework/>

2 <https://gonapsacc.org>



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Grant Application

General Info & Applicant Information

Name of applicant site, center or organization:

Location Address:

Mailing Address (if different):

County name:

Name of primary project contact:

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title:

Phone number

Email address

Gender:

Race/Ethnicity:

Name of the Farm-to-ECE project (if applicable):

Type of site (select all that apply):

- *Head Start programs center*
- *Head Start and/or Early Head Start*
- *Pre-K Counts*

What ages of children do you serve?

Please check all ages you may serve even if not currently enrolled.

- *0-12 Months*
- *13-24 Months*
- *2-5 Years*

About how many children are enrolled in your program right now?





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Please write the approximate percentage racial/ethnic representation at your site?

Race Categories

- North/South/Central American Indian or Alaska Native %____
American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Asian %____
Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Black or African American %____
Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African American".
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander %____
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- White %____
White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Ethnicity Categories

- Hispanic or Latinx or Spanish Origin %____
Hispanic or Latino: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, "Spanish origin", can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino".
- Not Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin %____

How would you describe the area in which your site is located:

- *Urban*
- *Rural*
- *Suburban*



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Suggested maximum word count is 500 words per section (2 to 4 paragraphs).

1. Site Overview

Describe your program/setting and the community/families you propose to serve with your grant.

2. Current activities and plan.

Describe your current and planned farm to early care practices.

3. Increasing Farm to ECE in your program.

Describe how you propose to increase your Farm to ECE activities with this grant funding.

4. Budget Narrative:

Tells us how much money you are requesting and how you will be using the funds if awarded to implement and/or expand your farm to early care practices.

5. Additional Information

Though not necessary, please feel free to include any additional information here about your program that you'd like to share, including web links or attachments related to your project.

