



Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education

Grant Announcement: Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative Technical Assistance Mini-Grant

Application Deadline: November 18, 2019

The Learning Collaborative is a mini-grant program for child care programs that want to join the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education movement. Ideal programs have owners, directors, cooks and teachers who are committed to improving the quality of their meal service by introducing more fresh and **local** foods to children. This includes nutrition education, understanding how foods grow, better cooking techniques, indoor and outdoor children activities, and parent involvement. The mini-grant program is designed to address health disparities to our most vulnerable children in our state. Watch this short [video](#) produced by Georgia Organics to learn more.

Because children develop their taste preferences at an early age, ECE professionals have very vital roles in safeguarding the nutritional well-being and health of infants and young children. Serving more fresh local fruits and vegetables and less processed foods will encourage children to try tasty new foods such as sweet potatoes, squash, blueberries, cabbage and spinach.

Grant Duration

Since we are developing models of best Farm to ECE practices, selected sites will commit to **16 months of participation**. Sites will attend trainings and complete assessments to work towards goals. **The process starts February 2020 and ends July 2021.**

Expectations

- Attend mandatory Super Saturday training #1 on January 24-25, 2020 at Helms College in Macon (required: lead plus 2 team members)
- Attend mandatory Super Saturday training #2 on September 19, 2020. (required: lead plus 2 team members)
- Complete pre and post self-assessments, set goals, and develop action plans
- Staff attend at least 2 on-site trainings related to farm to ECE and nutrition
- Attend mandatory showcase at end of grant period

What is local food?

The term “local” can mean food from Georgia or a nearby state. That means you could be buying locally when you get peaches grown in Georgia or oranges regionally from Florida.

Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Early care and education program serving children between the ages of 0-5
- ✓ Licensed by Bright from the Start or the Department of Defense or approved by another federal, state or local entity
- ✓ If licensed by Bright from the Start, must be in “good standing”
- ✓ Participation in CACFP and/or CAPS
- ✓ Preference will be given to sites that operate year-round

Mini-Grant Award Amounts

Grant Level	Award Amount	Your goal for children to eat fresh local produce	Additional Goals
Level 1: Seedlings	Centers \$1,500 Homes: \$1,000	1-2 times per week	See chart for more details on other goals
Level 2: Sprouts	Centers \$2,500 Homes: \$1,800	3 times per week or more	
Level 3: Mentors <i>For previous grant recipients</i>	Centers \$2,500 Homes: \$1,800	3 times per week or more	

The Application Process



Learning Collaborative Implementation Timeline



How to Apply

Applicants can apply online:

<https://qualitycareforchildren.wufoo.com/forms/m1a8muw41yco5tb/> or by completing a paper application and email to healthykids@qualitycareforchildren.org or by mail: Quality Care for Children; Nutrition Services, Attention: Farm to ECE, 2751 Buford Hwy NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30324. De necesitar traducción en español para completar esta solicitud, favor de contactar a Gina Cook al 404-479-4190.

The project is a collaboration of the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education Partnership.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mini-Grant Value for Level 1: Centers \$1,500 Homes: \$1,000

Participants must use mini-grant dollars to achieve these goals at the end of the 16-month grant period.

	Food & Procurement	Staff	Parents	Policy & Advocacy	More Info
Level 1 Mini-Grants: Seedlings	<p>Meals and Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the growing season, <u>local</u> fruits and vegetables are a part of meals or snacks 1-2 times per week. <p>Meal Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement <u>some</u> of the recommendations by the dietitian to serve healthier offerings through substitutions, better preparation techniques, frequency, etc. 🌟 	<p>Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition education is integrated into GELDS 1-2 times per week. <p>Indoor & Outdoor Garden Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the course of a year 3 or more different fruits and/or vegetables, grow in the garden. Gardening is included in instructional time 1 time per month or more. <p>Teachers, cooks and administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 2 mandatory Hub Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 24 -25, 2020 (2 days) Sept. 19, 2020 Other optional trainings (<i>staff required to attend at least 2</i>) 	<p>Parent Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Memorandum of Understanding (stating your program’s philosophy around food, nutrition and agricultural education) signed by <u>all</u> parents. 25% minimum of parents enrolled into parent text program. Nutrition education support/resources are provided to families 1 or 2 times per year. 	<p>Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio/scrapbook of activities is maintained as a visual story of the progress of the site. Optional: Create a written policy related to FTECE that includes a variety of topics such as local foods served and other efforts to educate children and families and connect them to local foods. (Consistent with your Parent MOU) 	<p>Travel & Subs Mini-grant dollars may be used for travel stipends and substitute teacher pay to allow staff to attend meetings and training.</p> <p>More Value In addition to the mini-grant amount, you <u>could</u> receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taste test boxes (\$50 per box) - 🌟 Dietitian review of menus (\$250) - Georgia Organics Conference scholarship(s) - Professional photos of your Farm to ECE efforts (\$400 value) – <i>If funding is available</i>
	++ Plus additional goals of your own! ++				

Mini-Grant Value for Level 2: Centers \$2,500 Homes: \$1,800

Participants must use mini-grant dollars to achieve these goals at the end of the 16-month grant period.

	Food & Procurement	Staff	Parents	Policy & Advocacy	More Info
Level 2 Mini-Grants: Sprouts	<p>Meals and Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the growing season, <u>local</u> fruits and vegetables are a part of meals or snacks 3 times per week or more. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) <p>Meal Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement <u>some</u> of the recommendations by the dietitian to serve healthier offerings through substitutions, better preparation techniques, frequency, etc. 🌟 	<p>Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition education is integrated into GELDS every day. <p>Indoor & Outdoor Garden Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the course of a year 7 or more different fruits and/or vegetables, grow in the garden. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) Gardening is included in instructional time 1 time per week or more. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) <p>Teachers, cooks and administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 2 mandatory Hub Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 24-25, 2020 (2 days) September 19, 2020 Other optional trainings (<i>staff required to attend at least 2</i>) 	<p>Parent Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Memorandum of Understanding (stating your program's philosophy around food, nutrition and agricultural education) signed by <u>all</u> parents. 30% minimum of parents enrolled into parent text program. Nutrition education support/resources are provided to families 3 or 4 times per year. Healthy food and beverage options are served at most family events. 	<p>Policy/Advocacy Choose 2 of 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio/scrapbook of activities is maintained as a visual story of the progress of the site. Create a written policy related to FTECE that includes a variety of topics such as local foods served and other efforts to educate children and families and connect them to local foods. (Consistent with your Parent MOU) Host an event that features your Farm to ECE work to the community and stakeholders. 	<p>Travel & Subs Mini-grant dollars may be used for travel stipends and substitute teacher pay to allow staff to attend meetings and training.</p> <p>More Value In addition to the mini-grant amount, you <u>could</u> receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taste test boxes (\$50 per box) 🌟 Dietitian review of menus (\$250) Georgia Organics Conference scholarship(s) Professional photos of your Farm to ECE efforts (\$400 value) – <i>If funding is available</i>

++ Plus additional goals of your own! ++

Mini-Grant Value for Level 3: Centers \$2,500 Homes: \$1,800

Participants must use mini-grant dollars to achieve these goals at the end of the 16-month grant period.

	Food & Procurement	Staff	Parents	Policy & Advocacy	More Info
Level 3: Mentors (Previous Grant Recipients Only)	<p>Meals and Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the growing season, <u>local</u> fruits and vegetables are a part of meals or snacks 3 times per week or more. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) <p>Meal Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement <u>some</u> of the recommendations by the dietitian to serve healthier offerings through substitutions, better preparation techniques, frequency, etc. 🌟 	<p>Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition education is integrated into GELDS every day. <p>Indoor & Outdoor Garden Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the course of a year 7 or more different fruits and/or vegetables, grow in the garden. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) Gardening is included in instructional time 1 time per week or more. ♥- Best Practice (GNS) <p>Teachers, cooks and administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 2 mandatory Hub Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2020 (2 days) October 2020 Other optional trainings (<i>staff required to attend at least 2</i>) 	<p>Parent Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Memorandum of Understanding (stating your program's philosophy around food, nutrition and agricultural education) signed by <u>all</u> parents. 35% minimum of parents enrolled into parent text program. Nutrition education support/resources are provided to families monthly. Only healthy foods and beverage options are served at family events. 	<p>Mentoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a peer mentor to other mini-grant sites and provide support through sharing experiences and helping them solve problems to their Farm to ECE implementation <p>Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a written policy related to FTECE that includes a variety of topics such as local foods served and other efforts to educate children and families and connect them to local foods. (Consistent with your Parent MOU) <p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a notable public act that promotes the importance of nutrition and Farm to ECE to the community and stakeholders. 	<p>Travel & Subs Mini-grant dollars may be used for travel stipends and substitute teacher pay to allow staff to attend meetings and training.</p> <p>More Value In addition to the mini-grant amount, you <u>could</u> receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taste test boxes (\$50 per box) - 🌟 Dietitian review of menus (\$250) - Georgia Organics Conference scholarship(s) - Professional photos of your Farm to ECE efforts (\$400 value) – <i>If funding is available</i>

++ Plus additional goals of your own! ++

What Can I Buy with My Mini-Grant Dollars?

This is a list of suggested items for purchase. Consult with our staff on other products and services.

	Food & Procurement	Staff	Parents	Policy & Advocacy
Mini-Grant Dollars	<p>Meals and Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietitian or nutritionist <p>Meal Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen equipment • Slicing appliances, knives, cutting boards • Pots and pans • Serving and measuring items • Mixers 	<p>Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic fruits and vegetables • Fabric fruits and vegetables for older children • Farm-related toys • Farm-related books • Games and flashcards • Taste Test boxes <p>Indoor Garden Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aero garden • Clear view gardens • Greenhouse <p>Outdoor Garden Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lumber, old bathtubs, small plastic pools, gutters to create raised beds • Wheelbarrows • Adult and child-sized gardening tools (shovels, rakes, spades) • Tiller • Fencing • Soil • Seeds and/or plants • Raised bed kits • Composter • Fruit tree <p>Teachers, cooks and administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending seminars, workshops, and conferences • Travel stipends and substitute teacher pay to allow staff to attend meetings and training 	<p>Parent Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent training on nutrition topics • Parent workshop on meal preparation • Parent taste tests • Onsite farm stand 	<p>Policy, Advocacy & Mentoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant to help with writing health and nutrition policies • Attending seminars workshops, and conferences on leadership and advocacy • Materials to maintain an onsite or online portfolio

What Additional Things Do Sites Receive (Not a part of your mini-grant amount)

Technical Assistance and Support

To achieve your farm to ECE goals in your action plan, it is critical that we partner as a team. The information below outlines technical assistance and support:

- Monthly check-in calls and/or on-site technical assistance. Topics include, but are not limited to:
 - Menu planning
 - Gardening
 - Creating and implementing action plans
 - Procurement; sourcing local foods
 - Harvest of the Month classroom activities
 - Family and staff engagement
- On-going communication related to goal achievement specific to the needs of your individual program
- Access to professional development opportunities
- Integrating farm to ECE activities to meet the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)
- Utilizing Quality Rated standards and farm to ECE strategies to improve and enhance the quality of the learning environment
- Planning, building, and maintaining your outdoor garden
- Take-away resources and supplies from trainings
- Possibility of dietetic intern visits to demonstrate lessons (*Atlanta area only*)
- Purchases with mini-grant dollars
- Identify and coordinate parent and family engagement activities
- Assist sites in enrolling parents in the texting program

Resources

- **Grow It, Try It, Like It!** Nutrition Education Kit Featuring MyPlate
- **A Guide to Using *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos* to Support Farm-to-ECE Models**
- **A Guide to Using the Creative Curriculum for Preschool to Support Farm-to-ECE Models**

Signage

- Banner signage for texting program
- **Harvest of the Month** posters

Farm to Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative Application

Contact and Demographic Information							
Site Name:							
Street Address of Site:							
County:							
Lead Contact Information							
Name of Lead:							
Title/Role:							
Phone Number:							
Email Address:							
Website:							
Program Facebook:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No				
Program Instagram:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No				
Program Twitter:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No				
Program type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) <input type="checkbox"/> Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start/Early Head Start						
Is your program for-profit or non-profit?	<input type="checkbox"/> For-profit <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit (check which type of non-profit) <input type="checkbox"/> 501c3 <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity						
Number of children in care: (Important: Total by Ethnic Category must equal total by Racial Category)	Ethnic Category	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino		Total by Ethnic Category		
	Infants						
	Toddlers						
	Preschoolers						
	Schoolagers						
	Racial Category	White	Black or African American	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Total by Racial Category
	Infants						
	Toddlers						
	Preschoolers						
	Schoolagers						
	Licensed Capacity:						

Number of enrolled children on CAPS:			
Is your site regulated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Licensed by Bright from the Start License number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Licensed by the Department of Defense <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Approved by another federal, state or local entity Entity Name: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Quality Rated (check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Star <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Star <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Star <input type="checkbox"/> In active process of acquiring QR rating <input type="checkbox"/> In active process of improving QR rating <input type="checkbox"/> Not in process		
Describe your current Quality Rated efforts. (Ex. Just started, submitted portfolio, not seeking QR rating, etc.)			
Does your program receive CACFP funding for meals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – My program works directly with DECAL. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – My program works directly with a sponsor. Name of Sponsor: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No – I do not participate in CACFP.		
Types of Meals Offered at Your Site:	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> AM Snack	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> PM Snack	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Snack
How often do you serve <i>fresh</i> fruits or vegetables (not frozen or canned) at your site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week <input type="checkbox"/> Every day		
Who is responsible for preparation and cooking of meals and snacks? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead or assistant teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Management <input type="checkbox"/> Part time or full time cook <input type="checkbox"/> Outside caterer or food vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please describe)		
How is food usually prepared for your site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat and Serve <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch cooking <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of both <input type="checkbox"/> Other; Explain: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know		

<p>Where is food typically purchased?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store (ex. Kroger, Wal-Mart, Publix, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale company (ex. Sam's, Costco, B.J.'s, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' Market that sells locally food grown in Georgia (e.g. DeKalb Farmers Market)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Food Distributor (ex. US Foods, Sysco, Pure Fun, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>Do you have an on-site kitchen?</p> <p>If yes, are you able to prepare fresh fruits and vegetables?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Do you currently have an outdoor garden?</p> <p>If no, have you identified a garden space for this mini-grant?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Why do you want to be a part of this Farm to ECE Learning Collaborative?</p>	
<p>What will you do to ensure Farm to ECE is a success at your site?</p>	
<p>Successful Farm to ECE programs have a core team. Identify your lead and supporting members. The <u>lead</u> will serve as the primary point of contact. The supporting team members will coordinate and/or lead farm to ECE activities</p>	<p>Lead: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Additional Team Members</p> <p>Name: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Title: _____</p>

<p>at your site. Please note, the lead and 2 supporting members are required to attend Super Saturday events.</p>	<p>****The number of team members will vary from site to site depending on program size, structure, etc.****</p>
<p>Choose the mini-grant level you are applying for:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Level 1: Seedlings (Centers \$1500; Homes \$1000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Level 2: Sprouts (Centers \$2500; Homes \$1800)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Level 3: Mentors (previous grant recipients only; Centers \$2500; Homes \$1800)</p>
<p>If you are a corporate owned center, do you have permission to apply for this mini-grant and have support from your corporate office:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>

Signatures

We have reviewed this application and attest to the information provided. If selected, we agree to implement the project as outlined in the above application. We understand that participation in the FTECE Learning Collaborative is a requirement of this grant program. This may require online communications, conference calls, and in-person meetings and trainings.

Lead:

_____ **Date:** _____

Program Owner/Director/Principal (if different from above):

_____ **Date:** _____

We are committed to supporting farm to early care and education 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:

Gina Cook, Nutrition Early Care and Education Specialist

gina.cook@qualitycareforchildren.org

404-479-4190

The project is a collaboration of the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education Partnership.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.