



ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND
INFORMATION TO MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS

The Food Trust Farm to Early Care and Education Recognition/Awards Application (April 2017)

To: Pennsylvania early care and education (ECE) providers (preschools, Head Start, Early Head Start, home-visiting, center-based programs, programs in K-12 school districts, home-based childcare programs, or any program serving children prior to kindergarten)

The Food Trust seeks to recognize 10 ECE programs in Pennsylvania that are currently engaged in farm to early care and education (farm to ECE) activities. Farm to ECE practices include activities that fall under three main categories: food and agriculture education, hands-on gardening opportunities, and use of local foods for meals, snacks or taste tests. Early care and education programs chosen for this award will receive \$500.

Background Information

About The Food Trust

The Food Trust, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization, works to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious, affordable food and information to make healthy decisions. Since the agency's founding in 1992, The Food Trust's comprehensive approach to healthy food access has included a strong focus on early childhood nutrition; to that end, a variety of farm to early care resources and programs have been implemented locally and regionally. A goal of the agency is to bolster farm to early care activities across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

About Farm to Early Care and Education

Farm to school is a group of activities and strategies that offer increased access to healthy, local foods, gardening opportunities and food-based learning activities to enhance the quality of the educational experience. Farm to school works well in all types of early care and education settings, inclusive of, but not limited to, preschools, childcare centers, family childcare homes, home-visiting, Head Start/ Early Head Start and programs in K-12 school districts. Farm to ECE activities support healthy eating habits, create a connection to local food and agricultural communities, and teach children how food grows.

Purpose Statement

The Food Trust seeks to support and highlight established farm to early care programs at 10 child care centers throughout Pennsylvania.

Eligible Entities

Licensed early care and education providers in Pennsylvania (childcare centers, licensed home-based childcare, home-visiting, private preschools, Head Start and/or Early Head Start programs, Pre-K Counts, preschool or child care centers through K-12 school districts, and others).

Application Selection

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

- *Populations served:* Applicants serving lower-income children and families, and communities lacking access to healthy foods will be prioritized.

- *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 purchasing of local foods for meals and/or snacks
- Cost associated with educational activities that support exploration of local food, agriculture, gardens and nutrition
- Locally grown food for taste tests and food preparation with children
- Activity supplies for edible plants in gardens, on windowsills or with indoor grow lights (such as potting soil, containers, seeds, watering cans, etc.)
- Travel associated with field trips to farms, farmers markets and/or community gardens
- Costs associated with promoting and increasing access to local foods for providers, staff and/or families
- Resources or education for families and the community (e.g., sending bags of local food home with families, or serving as a Community Supported Agriculture [CSA] distribution site or hub for food purchases, related information, activities/workshops, seeds, materials, etc.)
- Costs associated with printing photos of children, families and staff participating in project activities.
- Travel costs related to farm to early care stakeholder meetings

Timeline

April 17	RFP Released
May 17	Application Due
Early June	Awards announced

If selected for the award, The Food Trust requires:

- At least one site visit from The Food Trust and stakeholders
- Participation in two brief surveys
- Ad hoc communication via phone and email

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 us:

Isel Otero-Vera
 iotero-vera@thefoodtrust.org
 215-575-0444, ext. 4185

Please fill out the [short application online](#) by 11:59 p.m. on **May 18, 2017**. Alternatively, the application questions are listed below and can be filled out and then mailed, emailed or faxed to The Food Trust. Mailed applications must be postmarked by May 18, 2017. The application is also available [online in Spanish](#).

Email: iotero-vera@thefoodtrust.org

Mail: Isel Otero-Vera
 The Food Trust
 1617 JFK Blvd, Suite 900
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Fax: 215-575-0466

General Information & Applicant Information

Name of applicant 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:

Is your center licensed?: Yes/No

Name of project (if applicable):

Type of center (select all that apply):

- Childcare center
- Licensed home-based child care
- Private preschool
- Head Start and/or Early Head Start
- Pre-K Counts
- Preschool or child care through K-12 school district
- Other

Does the early childhood program participate in Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- N/A—meals not served

Approximately what percentage of enrolled children receive CCIS/Child Care Works subsidies, if applicable?

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

- Urban
- Rural
- Suburban

Suggested maximum word count is 250 words per section (1 or 2 paragraphs).

1. Site Overview

A. Describe your program/setting and the community/families you serve.

B. In 250 words or less, tell us about your farm to early care practices. These practices may include any of the following types of activities: serving local food in taste tests, snacks and/or meals, farm field trips, gardening with preschoolers, and/or other activities designed to teach young children about healthy food, how it grows, and about agriculture and nutrition. Include information about how you got started, your current activities or program, how you engage parents and how you hope to grow these activities over time (bulleted list is acceptable).

2. Budget Narrative:

Please explain how you plan to spend \$500, if awarded, to support and expand your farm to early care practices.

3. 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.