Farm to School for All

Federal Farm to School Policy Under the Equity Lens
OUR CORE FUNCTIONS

A hub for:

Information
Networking
Advocacy

Connecting people to:

Resources
People
Policy
WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL?

CORE ELEMENTS OF FARM to SCHOOL

EDUCATION

SCHOOL GARDENS

PROCUREMENT

NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK
FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Same core elements of farm to school applied in settings for children 0-5
- Child care centers, family child care homes, preschools, nursery schools, Head Starts, Early Head Starts, programs in K-12 districts, etc.

Why farm to ECE?
- Health and Wellness
- Experiential Learning
- Family and Community Engagement
WHY FARM TO SCHOOL?

KIDS WIN

FARMERS WIN

COMMUNITIES WIN
COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS
COMMON LANGUAGE

- CNR - Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- NFSN - National Farm to School Network
- Equity
POLICY 101 – A Brief Primer

• **Elections:** Putting people in power who have values that align with yours (NFSN does *not* work on electoral campaigns)

• **Authorization:**
  ○ Opportunity to support or oppose bills
  ○ Bills can serve a variety of functions
  ○ CNR is a reauthorization of a package of bills

• **Appropriations:** Make sure money goes where it’s supposed to

• **Implementation:** Making sure the program/policy works!

Adapted from National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Questions so far?
HISTORY OF CNR

- 1946: School lunch program for national security
- 1966: Expands school lunch, adds breakfast
- 1972: WIC pilot established
- 1992: WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- 2010: Nutrition standards and Farm to School Grant Program
FARM TO SCHOOL ACT OF 2019

• Farm to School Act “marker bill” (ideas bill) proposed in 2015 and 2017 to expand the USDA Farm to School Grant Program

• Proposed changes to 2017 bill:
  – Increases annual mandatory funding from $5 million to $15 million
  – Increases participation from beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers
  – Expands program scope to early care and education, summer, and afterschool programs
  – Increases access among tribal schools to traditional foods from tribal producers
  – Increase grant cap from $100K to $200K
GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCE

• 2008 Farm Bill established a geographic preference option to improve opportunities for local procurement in school meal programs
• Schools currently not allowed to make a specific geographic preference in bids
• “Workarounds” have been put into practice
APPLYING AN EQUITY LENS

• Your personal context
• What don’t you know?
• Lean into challenges
• Remember our community agreements
• Ask for help
• POC in the room are not the equity spokespeople
• Undoing a system takes work
• Words matter