



## WEESSN Food Systems Snapshot - 2023

### April

- **Launched Garden Tips Texts:** Throughout the gardening season (April-Oct.), 95 participants signed up for a weekly texting program offering seasonally and geographically relevant tips on gardening with children.
- **WEESSN Gardening Grants Rollout:** 139 programs across Wisconsin received grants for installing or refreshing existing gardens.

### May

- **Seedling donations:** WEESSN Farm to ECE Committee members collected donations of seedlings and seeds and distributed them to programs across 14 counties.
- **Roots in the Ground – Train the Trainer begins:** Seven WEESSN coaches worked through the Roots in the Ground curriculum and supported ECE ambassador sites to implement the curriculum.
- **Gardening Channel YouTube filming begins:** Nathan Larson begins filming instructional gardening videos in group and family child care programs.
- **Farm to ECE Toolkits:** Family child care programs began borrowing toolkits with supplies and resources to start composting, grow mushrooms, and integrate cooking and baking into their programming.

### June

- **Veggie Chop Shop:** A collaboration with Tikkun Ha Ir, which prepared and delivered meals to nine group programs in Milwaukee for 12 weeks.

### July

- **WEESSN/WFHC Food Box Deliveries:** A total of 44 group and family child care programs in Racine, Walworth, Kenosha, and Waupaca counties received 12 weeks of local food deliveries through the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative (WFHC).

### September

- **Chef Zakiya Courtney Cooking Classes:** In-person (Milwaukee), Zoom cookalong, and recorded sessions teaching healthy and culturally relevant cooking techniques for using local, fresh produce.

### October

- **WEESSN Food Care Connection:** 377 programs signed up to receive support purchasing healthy foods. 318 programs selected grocery store gift certificates, 53 programs selected four weeks of local food boxes from WFHC, six programs selected farmer's market gift certificates to Dane County Farmer's Market, Fondy Food Market in Milwaukee, or Cameron Park Farmer's Market in La Crosse.

### December 2023-February 2024

- **Partnership for a Healthy America/City of Milwaukee:** Distributed Instacart Funds to ~220 families in Milwaukee with 90% successful participant engagement.

### Ongoing

- Farm to ECE Open Office Hours
- WEESSN Farm to ECE Monthly Newsletter