

WEESSN Food Systems Snapshot - 2024

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. [Good Food at Home Video](#)

February

- **CSA Opportunity Rollout:** Providers in WEESSN Tier 2 and Tier 3 were eligible for reimbursement for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares. 128 child care programs, with capacity to serve 9,772 children, chose to receive CSA share reimbursements totaling \$58,000 for the 2024 season.

March

- **Seed Distributions:** Seed donations from Johnny's Selected Seeds, Baker Creek Seeds, and Seed Savers were distributed to providers in Tier 3. More than 2,000 packets of seeds were packaged and distributed.

April

- **Roots in the Ground On-demand Training Launch:** The Roots in the Ground Training became available to all providers via Talent LMS online learning platform.
- **Racine Edible Gardens Project Launch:** 10 ECE sites in Racine County are participating in a yearlong opportunity to increase access to local food through gardening, food preparation and preservation resources, and technical assistance.
- **Milwaukee Edible Gardens Project Launch:** 11 ECE sites in Milwaukee are participating in an opportunity to increase access to local food through gardening, food preparation and preservation resources, and technical assistance.

May

- **WEESSN/WFHC Food Box Deliveries:** A total of 37 group and family child care programs in Dodge, Grant, Jackson, Waupaca, and Vernon counties serving 1,193 children received eight weeks of local food deliveries through the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative (WFHC).
- **Garden Channel Video Series Launch:** Eight-episode instructional gardening video series featuring local providers and their gardens debuted at the Children & Nature Network Conference's Nature Everywhere event at Olbrich Gardens.

July

- **WEESSN Begins ASPHN FARMWISE Collaboration:** A state collaborative team will participate in the ASPHN (Association of State Public Health Nutritionists) Farm to CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) Institute and Learning Collaborative's Lettuce Grow Track for two years.
- **Three New Farm to ECE Toolkits Launch:** Family child care programs are eligible to borrow their choice of five toolkits for eight weeks: Cooking/Baking, Growing Mushrooms, Seed Starting, Gardening, and Pollinators.

Ongoing

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