

# Farm to Table (F2T)

- Provides local, sustainably produced foods to participating childcare centers and before/after school programs in Seattle to increase access to high-quality, nutritious foods

- - and strengthen our local food system.

### F2T Team

**NOURISHIAN** 

FOR LIFE

To support this work, F2T's team offers nutrition and gardening education, staff training, and technical assistance through a collaborative partnership of organizations.









### farm to TABLE How it works



### **Program Elements**

- Food Procurement
- Education
- Staff Training

### **Our History**

 Launched in 2010 with a federal grant in response to a childcare site cook asking for resources to get locally produced food

- Began with 8 pilot sites
- Funded through a patchwork of private and public support between 2010 - 2018
- Funded by SBT beginning in 2018



### F2T Goals

Increase access to fresh local produce

- Support the local farm economy and build connections between farmers and consumers
- Improve the health of children and families







### **Core Values**

### Access to quality food

### **Community connection**

Health equity

Appreciation for farm workers

Resilient & regenerative practices



### Respect for culture & tradition

### Enjoyment & celebration of food

# Reach



### Participants in 2020

- 64 childcare and before/after school sites 3,400 students served
- \$100,000 into local farm economy
- 60+ farms in Washington state
  - 14 farmers of Color
  - 26 women led farms



### Poverty Rate in 2012-16

0% 3.1 4.2 5.5 6.5 7.7 9.6 12 15 23 >40%



# Priority Communities

Families with low incomes

### Fraction Non-White in 2010

0% 15 18 21 25 30 35 41 50 61 100%



# Priority Communities

Communities of Color



# Race and Social Justice Impacts



- Improving access to quality food in childcare settings
- Supporting local farmers and local economy
- Educating children about the food system through nutrition, gardening, and cooking lessons based in STEM

### Alignment with CAB Priorities

- Improved food in childcare
- Increases access to local fruits/veg and meat products
- Reaches priority populations
- Brings together the food access and early education priorities





## **Crisis Response**

- Pivoting food procurement to be more flexible for childcare sites to support kids and families
- Adapting our nutrition education to virtual classes, staff trainings, and education kits
- Maintaining sales for farmers when markets and restaurants are closing
- Balancing prevention and intervention





### Participant Identified Benefits

- Opportunities to try new foods
- Share food cultures
- Connecting farmers with families and staff
- Improved child behavior







## Long-Term Benefits

- Teach life skills to impact long-term habits and lifestyles
- Improve diet-related health outcomes for children—decrease diabetes and heart disease
- Develop a more environmentally sustainable, economically viable and community-driven local food system



# Ahead



## **Community Redesign Process**

- Driven by a commitment to social justice and racial equity from the City of Seattle and F2T partners
- Realign the program design with community input
- Phase I Partnered with UW Nutrition MPH students to collect feedback from participants
- Phase II Partnering with consultant to expand engagement through stakeholder focus groups, interviews and surveys

# Looking Ahead

- Connect with complementary programs to enhance local food system
- Harvest Festival Fall 2021
- Increase staff capacity for F2T educators to deepen relationships with sites
- 2022 RFP for F2T contracts to extend to be more inclusive of BIPOC educators





