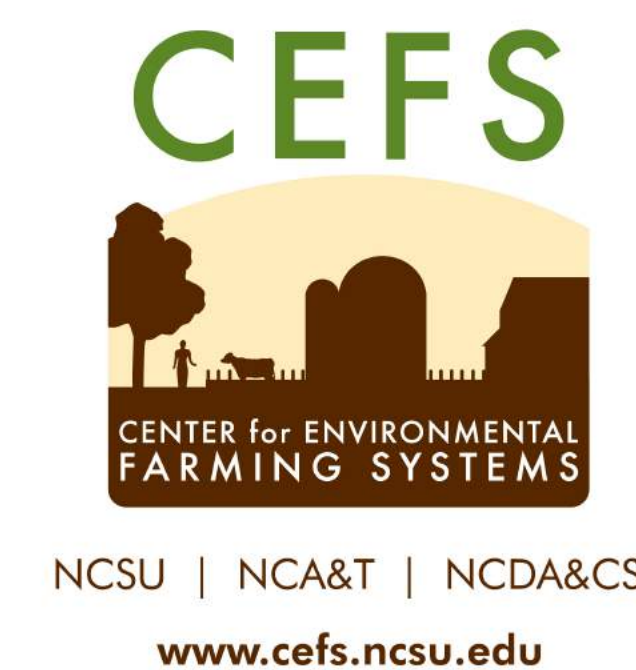




# Center for Environmental Farming Systems

## NC Farm to Early Care and Education Initiative

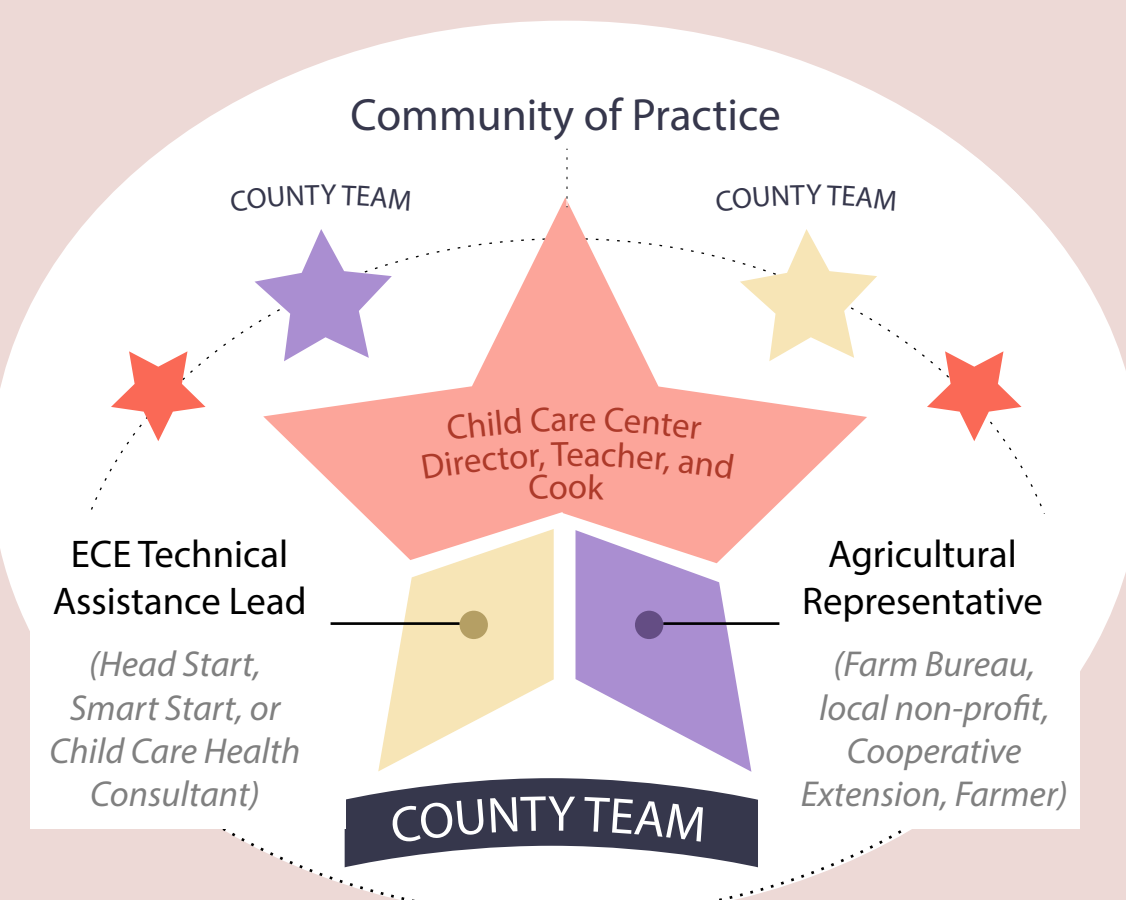


Farm to Early Care and Education (Farm to ECE) enhances the health and education of young children by developing systems and experiential learning that connect children and their families with local food and farms. It includes any type of activities in ECE environments that incorporate local foods through meals and snacks, taste tests, lessons, farmer visits, cooking, growing food, and/or community and parent involvement.

### The Breakthrough Series Collaborative Model

The 2019 NC Farm to Early Care and Education Collaborative is a year-long process with multiple full-day, face-to-face “learning sessions.” These sessions include a kick-off meeting, three Collaborative sessions, and a racial equity training. These learning sessions bring together teams from across the state to share experiences, network, and learn from each other’s work in Farm to ECE. In between these multi-group sessions, participants engage in regularly scheduled conference calls and team meetings to advance their goals.

Additionally, each team member joins an affinity group to connect with other collaborative participants across the state with their same role.



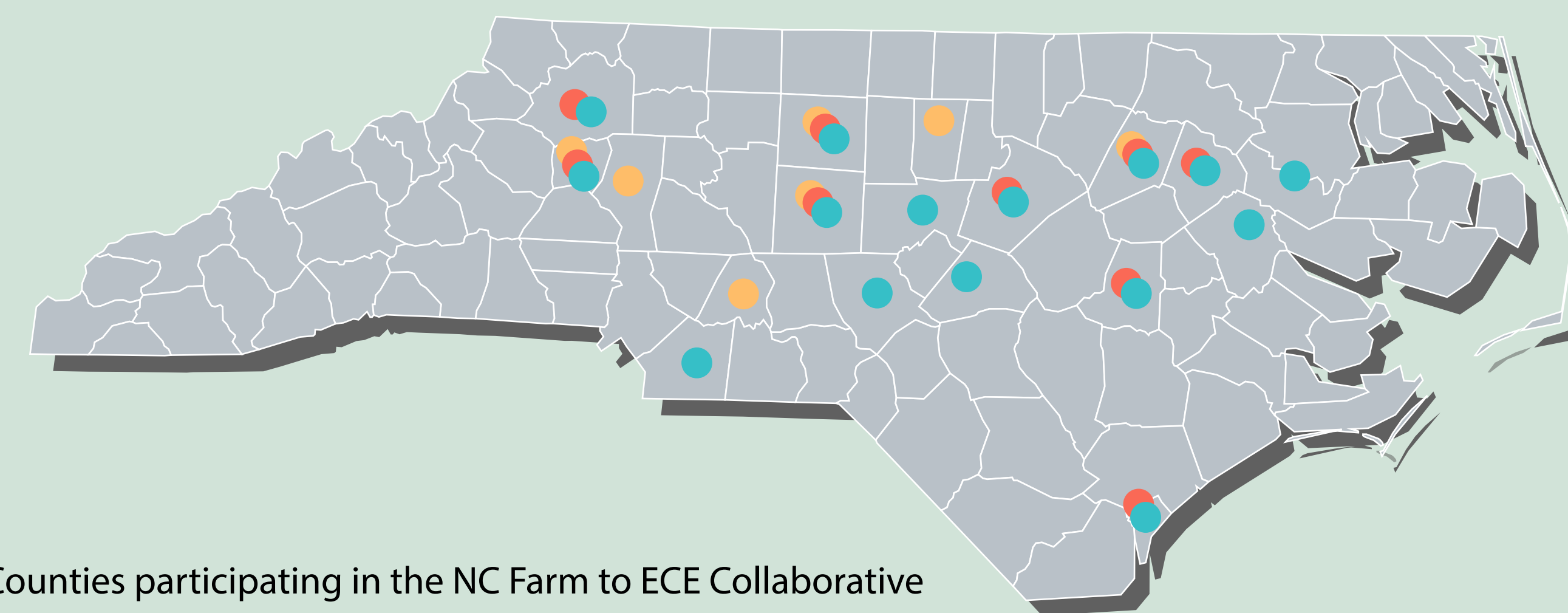
- Participation in a Community of Practice to share ideas and lessons learned
- Use of Go NAPSACC Farm to ECE Module to establish best practice goals and develop action plans
- Use of Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles (PDSAs) – this method allows for teams to create and test changes on a small scale, encouraging ideas to be tried immediately
- Use of data and other feedback to identify and address barriers to implementing best practices
- Implementation of sustainability strategies



The NC Farm to Early Care and Education (Farm to ECE) Collaborative uses a practice-tested model adapted from the evidence-informed Breakthrough Series Collaborative. This method was developed in 1995 by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as a way to accelerate local quality improvement efforts specifically around healthcare. The Collaborative model focuses on testing, adapting, spreading, and maintaining improvements across multiple settings and within organizations to promote the sustainability of desired outcomes. Participants in this Collaborative are taking Farm to ECE efforts to new levels, bringing new strategies and approaches back to their communities.



### Communities Reached

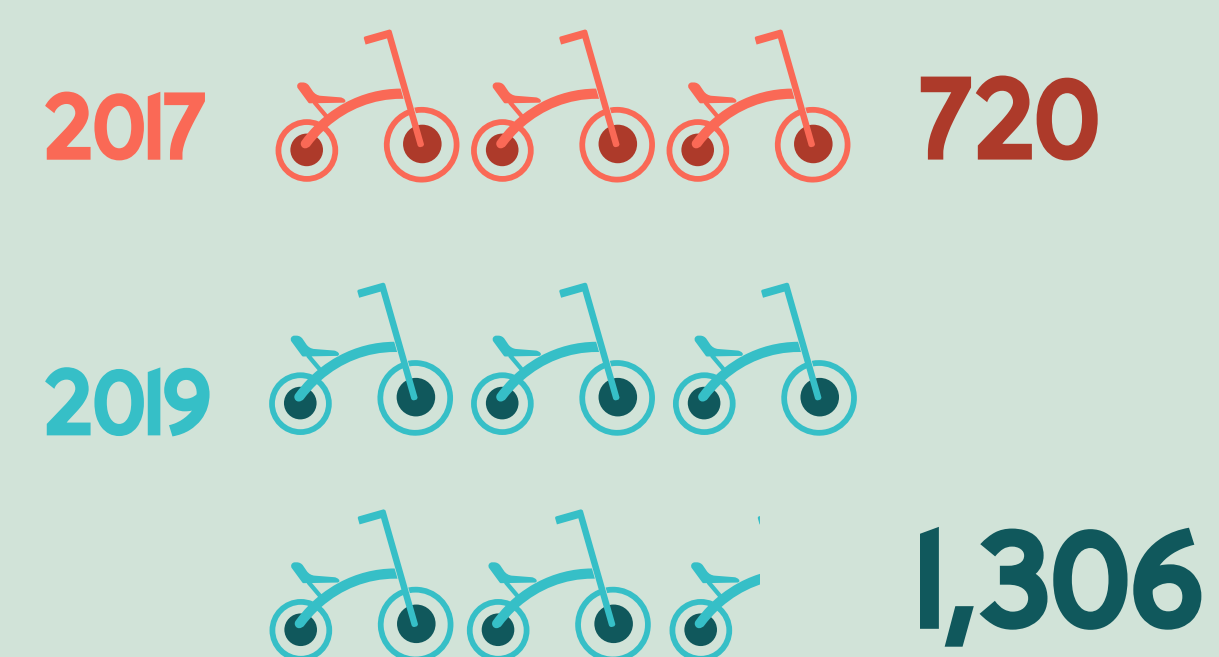


Counties participating in the NC Farm to ECE Collaborative

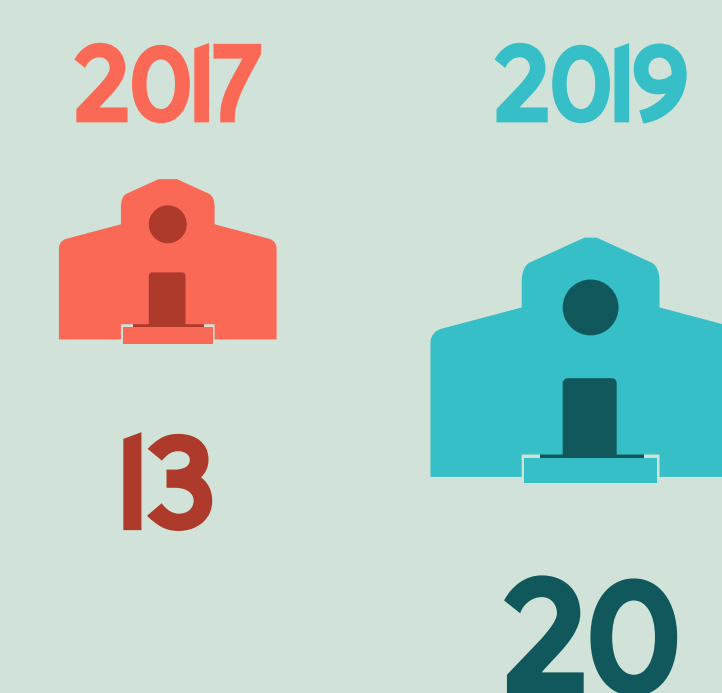
● 2016 (Shape NC) ● 2017 ● 2019

### Collaborative growth 2017-2019

#### Total Number of Children served



#### Early Care and Education Centers and Homes



### Racial Equity Principles in the Farm to ECE Collaborative

#### What do we mean by Racial Equity?

Racial equity will be achieved when race and zip code no longer determine a child’s health. This initiative has committed to addressing root causes of food systems inequities as a means of alleviating child health disparities. We know that these disparities are disproportionately high in communities of color.



#### Our Racial Equity Framework

- Long-term commitment to create a racially equitable food system
- Acceptance of non-closure as there may not be immediate solutions
- Willingness to work collectively with communities most impacted to create solutions
- Assumption of positive intentions from each other, stakeholders and community partners
- Participants commit to engaging in racial equity trainings
- Willingness to create a “sphere of influence” that engages people in our communities and builds a cohort of racial equity practitioners

#### Topics and Resources offered

All Collaborative participants receive racial equity training on the following topics:

- Recognizing and addressing implicit bias
- Linguistic Discipline: How do our communication preferences, styles, patterns disrupt or support systemic racism?
- How to select culturally responsive books for reading instruction
- Using Food Literacy Boxes to share racially and ethnically inclusive food and farming stories
- What resistance looks like and how do people organize to support change?