



Down East Partnership for Children

FEED Systems Coach – Fall 2019

Contracted Position:

Food to Early Education Systems Coach

Area

Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) of Nash and Edgecombe Counties is a non-profit organization located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. DEPC is committed to launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade! We believe that all children and their families can reach their full potential when surrounded by a united and supportive community. DEPC's goals involve health, families and communities, early care and education, as well as ready schools. You can learn more about us at our [website](#).

Food to Early Education

Food to Early Education is a new initiative currently in its second year at DEPC. FEED's goal is to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables served in childcare sites serving low-income children. This three year initiative includes multiple cohorts of childcare sites enrolled in phases.

The function of FEED is to develop food supply chains by working with organizations to develop relationships/mechanisms to connect local food and farmers to child care providers, modifying the way child care centers purchase fresh, healthy foods.

Role

The Food to Early Education (FEED) Systems Coach will work directly with the Food to Early Education Coordinator at Down East Partnership for Children. The FEED Systems Coach will work to connect and facilitate successful business relationships between local farmers and child care facilities to purchase fresh produce. The primary responsibilities will be to:

1. Recruit local farmers and provide technical assistance (RFPs, Forwarding Contracting, Sales) to the farmers to meet the needs of child care facilities
2. Provide technical assistance in Menu Design & Food/Supply Ordering to child care centers enrolled in FEED
3. Deliver quarterly taste tests & novel food experiences to children enrolled in FEED centers

This contract will begin January 1, 2020 and run through June 30, 2020.

Compensation: This position requires 15-30 hrs/week of work. \$15-25/hour based on qualifications.



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Responsibilities

- Develop Supply-side mechanisms
 - Recruit local food growers
 - Recruitment will be ongoing to build a system where local farmers have access to the child care community as a market. This will involve visiting farms to meet with farmers on their schedules.
 - Facilitate introductions between farmers and child care directors
 - Ensure farmers effectively communicate what product is available through various growing seasons
 - Communicate with FEED Coordinator to ensure child care staff understand farmers' unique business needs
- Document farmer outreach for grant reporting purposes & value chain creation
- Develop Demand-side mechanisms
 - Deliver one seasonal taste test per quarter in each FEED child care center
 - Support child care centers in revising and creating menus that reflect seasonality, fresh foods, and local foods
 - Increase the child care centers awareness of how to cook on a large scale
 - Manage the transition of child care centers from canned and processed food to fresh and frozen food
- Serve on the Farm to Early Education committee, attend monthly meetings, communicate with project partners
 - Attend the Just Foods Policy Council monthly meetings with the FEED Coordinator, as needed



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Job Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Valid North Carolina Drivers License & Reliable vehicle
- Bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Experience and knowledge of agriculture, food systems, or restaurant management
- Passion for building equitable, regional supply and/or value chains

Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in nutrition, agriculture, business, public health, or a related field
- Experience and knowledge of agriculture and local food markets in Nash and Edgecombe counties
- Connections to small-mid sized growers in Nash and Edgecombe counties
- Passion for early education and early childhood environments
- Working knowledge of commercial food production & menu design