



383 Sherwood Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Phone: 802.262.3292  
familycenter@fcwcv.org  
www.fcwcv.org  
Find us on Facebook

February 7, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very invested in supporting the funding of the Farm to School and Early Childhood program. I would like to request that for FY2021, you all work toward getting us to the \$500,000 needed annually to support this important program. If that is not possible, then I ask you to please at least ensure that the funding does not decrease from its \$231,000 base.

As the kitchen manager of a non-profit preschool with approximately 65% of children eligible for free lunch, I am personally invested in providing fresh, local foods that kids can get excited about. Because so many of our children live with food insecurity, it is paramount that they have a strong foundation of consistently wholesome foods in their lives. It has been proven that being exposed to a broad range of healthy foods early in life can help children develop lifelong healthy eating habits, and I personally have seen the ripple effects of this phenomenon. It is not uncommon for parents of our preschoolers to come to me and say, "I can't believe it, but my child loves your kale chips – could I get the recipe?" So, not only do I see our preschoolers broaden their horizons, but I see their family members benefiting as well. I have been fortunate to receive Farm to Early Childhood grants for the past two years, and these grants have been instrumental in helping me continue to provide fresh, local foods to our preschoolers despite my shoestring, non-profit budget.

Thank you for your support,  
Elyse Glück  
Kitchen Manager  
Family Center of Washington County