“Bridging the gap between Child Care Providers and MSDH Child Care Licensure Division in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for Mississippian children and families.”

**Free Training Opportunity!**

**MSDH Training Update:**

The MSDH training team will begin offering the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Health and Safety training in April. Please visit our online calendar and registration form to register. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Banes at nicole.banes@msdh.ms.gov.

**MSDH Online Training Calendar and Registration Form link:**

[https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/30_21440.183.423.html](https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/30_21440.183.423.html)
Growing Lunch is a school garden grant program administered through the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce with the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Eligible schools can receive a **grant of up to $500** to purchase supplies needed to develop a school garden or to further enhance an existing school garden. All schools, K-12, in Mississippi are eligible to apply. Mississippi preschools are also eligible to apply. This program is on a first come, first serve basis. Only one grant can be awarded per school. Schools that have received a Growing Lunch grant from MDAC in the past are not eligible to apply for additional funds at this time. Pre-schools must be registered/licensed by the Mississippi Department of Health.

If you have questions please contact Susan Lawrence, 601.213.7542 or susan@mdac.ms.gov.

Website link with grant info and application if funds become available: [https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/market-development/growing-lunch-school-garden-grant/](https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/market-development/growing-lunch-school-garden-grant/)

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**Encouragement For Teaching Staff**

**You are making a difference every day.**

**You don't just teach. You inspire.**

**Teach like a pineapple. Stand tall, wear a crown. Be sweet on the inside.**