



2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



On the Cover

A photo of two workers at Crisp Country Acres Farm in Holland, Michigan. ***All photos appearing in this report are courtesy of Sarah Rypma.***

Data Sources

Michigan Department of Education, Grantee Purchase Submission Information

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, 2024-2025 Reporting Survey Responses

The data presented in this report is based on information reported by 238 different grantees who responded to reporting surveys and 243 grantees who submitted purchase information.

10 Cents a Meal Implementation Team



10 Cents a Meal is implemented by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) with support from the following partners:



Acknowledgements

10 Cents a Meal is a celebration of local, Michigan-grown food for our state's children, that would not be possible without the Michigan farms and food businesses who support the local food supply chain that is core to this program. The 10 Cents a Meal Implementation Team would also like to acknowledge the work of countless food program staff who work tirelessly to prepare and serve meals and snacks in schools, early care and education settings, and wherever children are fed with Child Nutrition Programs in their communities.

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INTRODUCTION

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms (10 Cents a Meal) provides grant funds to pay for Michigan-grown food, local food transportation fees, and food service labor expenses to strengthen the local food supply chain and enrich nutrition and educational experiences for children. Eligible grantees include schools, early care and education centers, and other institutions that participate in Child Nutrition Programs in Michigan.

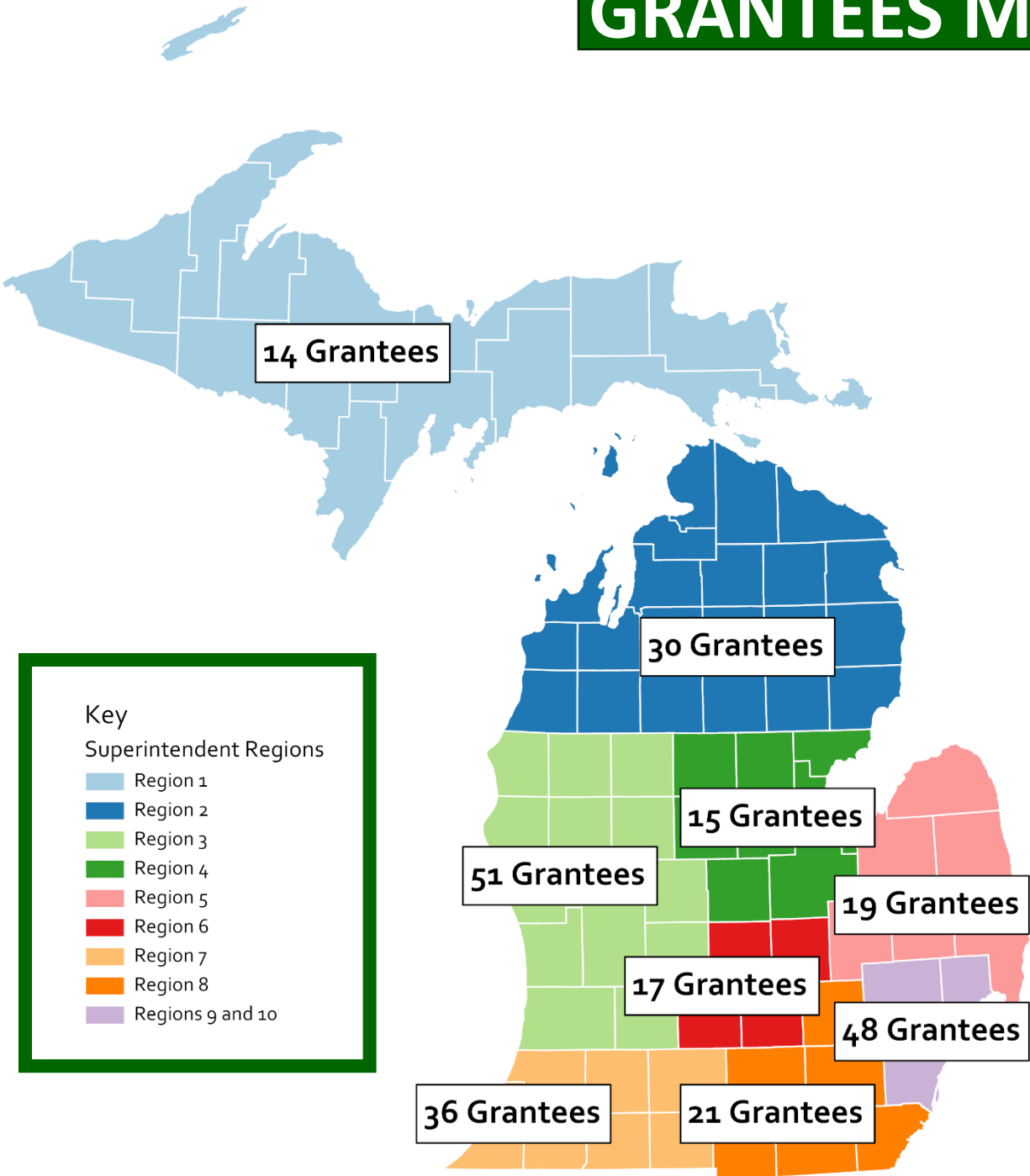
Program Goals

- Improve daily nutrition and eating habits for children through local purchasing.
- Invest in Michigan agriculture and related local food business economy.
- Build and expand Farm to School Partnerships- including teachers, parents, vendors, and local growers.
- Provide education and marketing, including meal promotion, nutrition and agriculture education, and promotion of local foods to families and communities.

Program Year Overview

- In the 2024-2025 program year, 251 school districts, early care and education sites, and other childcare sponsors were awarded \$4 million in funding.
- Grantees were comprised of 233 schools and districts, 17 independent childcare sites, and one community service agency across the state.
- 238 different grantees shared information through electronic reporting surveys, and 243 grantees submitted purchase information.
- Additionally, 122 family day care homes participated through their Sponsoring organization.
- Collectively, grantees served over 600,000 children in 64 of Michigan's 83 counties.

GRANTEES MAP



Full list of awarded grantees available in Appendix A.

IMPACTS FOR CHILDREN AND FOOD PROGRAMS

Expanding Tastes

- The majority of grantees (86%) reported that 10 Cents a Meal grants allowed them to try new products in their food program that they would not have otherwise tried.
- Grantees reported trying for the first time 46 types of vegetables, 21 types of fruits, and five types of legumes.
- The top ten new Michigan-grown foods reported by food program managers in reporting surveys (in order) were peaches, summer squash, apples, blueberries, corn, cherries, tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, and radishes.
- 10 Cents a Meal's role in increasing access to healthy Michigan-grown foods is particularly important as evaluation findings show the program is reaching and serving a wide range of children who participate in grantee food programs.

Increasing Food Access and Consumption

Most grantees agreed that their food program or food service operation was positively impacted through participating in the program. Food program managers (FPMs) reported that 10 Cents a Meal:

- allowed them to offer more Michigan-grown fruits (92%),
- increased fruit consumption among students and children (84%),
- allowed them to offer more Michigan grown vegetables (87%), and
- increased vegetable consumption among students and children (76%).

Thanks to 10 Cents a Meal, Michigan kids tried apricots, broccolini, delicata squash, edamame beans, fennel, kohlrabi, and more during the 2024-2025 program year!

Early Care and Education Settings

- Seventeen grantees (about 7% of all grantees) were independent childcare sites.
- Of those, seven childcare site grantees reported that they served new Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, or legumes for the first time. These included 18 new types of vegetables and 11 types of fruits.
- The top five types of activities (in order) that childcare sites conducted to support local food purchasing were promotional posters, nutrition education in the classroom, on-site garden activities, social media, and taste testing.
- Evaluation findings show that participating childcare grantees continue to be successful in reaching a variety of outcomes through the program, such as purchasing and serving a wide variety of Michigan-grown foods and conducting a range of different farm to early care and education activities.

“Purchasing and serving local foods in our childcare programs not only encourages health and nutrition benefits but also supports economic resilience. Supporting local farmers and their produce directly contributes to our local economy.”

-Childcare center grantee



Program Training

- Grantees were asked about their preferred training formats and together they reported:
 - Virtual, live (134 grantees)
 - Online self-paced (114 grantees)
 - In-person (107 grantees)
 - Virtual, pre-recorded (81 grantees)
- Based on grantee feedback, 10 Cents a Meal program administrators offered:
 - Eight in-person application training sessions, one virtual training, virtual assistance by request, and one self-paced online training to help grantees complete the program application.
 - Seven in-person purchase submission training sessions, one virtual training, virtual assistance by request, and one self-paced online training to help grantees submit purchase information.

- Grantees also provided suggestions for training topics. The top reported topics included support with procurement/vendor relationships (42%), recipes/culinary instruction (15%), purchase submission and reporting (13%), marketing and education (6%), and seasonality/availability of local foods (5%).

Outcomes for Food Programs

Grantees reported that the top five outcomes (in order) that 10 Cents a Meal helped food program operators achieve were:

- the variety of produce served in the food program increased (149 grantees),
- ability to plan local produce and dry bean purchasing with greater certainty (130 grantees),
- better able to meet meal requirements (90 grantees),
- food purchasing budget increased (88 grantees),
- challenges to purchasing Michigan-grown foods were reduced (85 grantees).

“I like to buy local, the kids think it is pretty cool when we can tell them where the foods are from. The students get more involved. Our community needs the support and push of ordering of ordering locally. Sometimes, this program is the only way for students to try new things.”

-Public school district grantee

Engaging Students, Children, and Community

- Grantees reported over 50 different Michigan-grown foods tried through taste tests. The top five Michigan-grown foods taste tested (in order) were apples, blueberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, and peaches. Some of the foods that grantees reported serving through taste tests included hoophouse grown lettuce, tomato sauce, radish salad with local greens, and fruit smoothies.
- The top five activities to support local foods served through 10 Cents a Meal as reported by grantees were: promotional posters (48%), taste testing (46%), nutrition education in the cafeteria (31%), social media posts (31%), and decorations (25%).

LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY IMPACTS



Market Opportunities

- Seventy-five grantees reported at least once throughout the year that there were Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, or dry beans they wanted to use but have not been able to find or buy.
- Some of the Michigan-grown foods of interest among food program managers were asparagus, paw paw fruit, dry beans, beets, blueberries, peaches, plums, cucumbers, celery, and more.
- There are a variety of foods that grantees continue to report as wanting to serve but they could not find or buy. These findings could help identify areas for improvement in the supply chain and availability throughout the state so that grantees can be better supported to purchase more of their desired foods.



“We have been able to create lasting professional relationships with local farming organizations. 10 Cents a Meal has also helped us purchase from local growers within the city.”

-Public school district grantee

Farm Supply Chain Impacts

- Evaluation findings show that FPMs are reporting purchases from a wide range of farmers and food suppliers across the state.
- Fifty percent of grantees reported that participation in 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to make connections with new farmers or food suppliers.
- Sixty-one percent of grantees reported that participation in 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to improve existing relationships with farmers or local food suppliers.
- Forty-seven percent of childcare center grantees reported that 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to connect with new farmers or local food suppliers, and it allowed them to improve existing relationships.

Farm to Program Directory – New in 2024-2025!

Nearly half of responding grantees reported needing additional support with procurement/vendor relationships and seasonality/availability of local foods. To address this need, and to continue to invest in Michigan’s agriculture and related local food business economy, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) developed the Michigan Farm to Program Directory:

- The Directory is a searchable database of both suppliers and buyers of Michigan-grown products.
- Institutions that want to purchase Michigan foods can register as buyers in the Directory.
 - Buyers can add details to their profile, including specific food items they would like to purchase locally, delivery date and time preferences, food safety requirements, and more.
 - Buyers can search for information about suppliers of local foods in their area, including what products are offered, when they are available, and whether they offer additional services such as minimal processing and delivery.
- Farmers, food hubs, and other suppliers of local Michigan food that are interested in selling local foods to Michigan institutions can register as suppliers in the Directory.
 - As of February 2026, 104 unique suppliers from 45 of Michigan’s 83 counties have registered as suppliers in the Directory!
 - Suppliers can search for and directly contact buyers in their area to see if they are interested in buying local food items from them.



“We love 10 Cents a Meal. We just need more ways to connect with more suppliers of Michigan grown items.”

-Public school district grantee

Transportation and Labor Reimbursement – New in 2024-2025!

For the first time during program year 2024-2025, grantees could use up to 25% of their grant award to be reimbursed for eligible delivery fees, mileage costs, and labor expenses that supported the goals of the program.

The purpose of these funds was to enable grantees to expand their ability to process local food, increase scratch cooking, and access new suppliers, new food products, and/or new partnerships with other sponsors to strengthen the local food supply chain.

- Seventy-one grantees reported using funds for transportation and labor expenses.
- Fifty-six grantees reported that the availability of transportation and labor funds expanded their ability to purchase and/or serve local foods.
- Grantees reported close to \$160,000 in eligible transportation and labor expenses:
 - Almost \$136,000 was reported in approved labor expenses such as food preparation, preparing menus, staff time for delivery, procurement activities, and more.
 - Nearly \$21,000 was reported in eligible transportation expenses such as fees for a supplier to deliver food, fees for a supplier to add a delivery route, mileage costs for staff to transport food between buildings, and more.



“Being able to pay someone to drive out to farms & pick up items, or have them delivered, is crucial to success. Otherwise, we have no time for it, and neither do farmers.”

-Public school district grantee

“Adding this additional option for funding was great. It allowed us to purchase from a wider variety of farmers.”

-Public school district grantee

APPENDIX A: 10 CENTS A MEAL GRANTEES

Full list of awarded grantees based on the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA) regions

Region 1

Big Bay De Noc School District
Breitung Township School District
Chassell Township School District
Copper Island Academy
Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District
Gwinn Area Community Schools
Hancock Public Schools
Houghton-Portage Township School District
Ironwood Area Schools of Gogebic County
Kids Club Child Development Center, LLC
Mid-Peninsula School District
Rudyard Area Schools
Superior Central School District
West Iron County Public Schools



Region 2

Alcona Community Schools
Alpena Public Schools
Bear Lake Schools
Benzie County Central Schools
Boyne Falls Public School District
Central Lake Public Schools
Cheboygan Area Schools
East Jordan Public Schools
Elk Rapids Schools
Ellsworth Community School
Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools
Glen Lake Community Schools
Harbor Springs School District
Hillman Community Schools
Houghton Lake Community Schools

Inland Lakes Schools
Kaleva Norman Dickson School District
Leelanau Children's Center
Leland Public School District
Mancelona Public Schools
Manistee Area Public Schools
Onkama Consolidated Schools
Pellston Public Schools
Public Schools of Petoskey
St. Francis High School
Suttons Bay Public Schools
Traverse City Area Public Schools
Vanderbilt Area Schools
West Branch-Rose City Area Schools
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools

Region 3

Allegan Public Schools
Allendale Christian School
Baxter Community Center Inc.
Comstock Park Public Schools
Coopersville Area Public School District
Delton Kellogg Schools
Forest Hills Public Schools
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools
Godwin Heights Public Schools
Grand Rapids Metropolitan YMCA
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Greenville Public Schools
Hart Public School District
Hesperia Community Schools
Holland City School District
Holton Public Schools
Hopkins Public Schools
Ionia Public Schools
Jenison Public Schools
Kenowa Hills Public Schools
Kent County Juvenile Detention
Lakewood Public Schools
Lowell Area Schools
Ludington Area School District
Mason County Eastern Schools
Mona Shores Public School District
Montague Area Public Schools
Muskegon Heights Public School
Academy System
Muskegon, Public Schools of the City of
New Branches Charter Academy
Newaygo Public School District
North Muskegon Public Schools

Orchard View Schools
Otsego Public Schools
Plainwell Community Schools
Portland Public Schools
Ravenna Public Schools
Reed City Area Public Schools
Reeths-Puffer Schools
Saranac Community Schools
Saugatuck Public Schools
Shelby Public Schools
Sparta Area Schools
Wedgwood Christian Services
West MI Academy of Environmental
Science
West Ottawa Public School District
White Cloud Public Schools
Whitehall District Schools
Wyoming Public Schools
YMCA of Barry County
Zeeland Public Schools



Region 4

All Saints Elementary
Bay City Academy
Beaverton Schools
Birch Run Area Schools
Bullock Creek School District
Essexville-Hampton Public Schools
Francis Reh Public School Academy
Fulton Schools
Harrison Community Schools
Hemlock Public School District
Merrill Community Schools
Midland Public Schools
Renaissance Public School Academy
Saginaw, School District of the City of
Swan Valley School District

Region 5

Anchor Bay School District
Bendle Public Schools
Fenton Area Public Schools
Flint Cultural Center Academy
Flint, School District of the City of
Food Bank Of Eastern Michigan Inc
Genesee School District
Goodrich Area Schools
Lake Fenton Community Schools
Lapeer Community Schools
Mayville Community School District
Michigan School for the Deaf
Millington Community Schools
Montrose Community Schools
Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools
Reese Public Schools

St. Clair County Regional Educational
Service Agency
Swartz Creek Community Schools
Whaley Children's Center

Region 6

Association for Child Development
Bellevue Community Schools
Charlotte Public Schools
Corunna Public Schools
East Lansing School District
Lansing Catholic Central High School
Lansing Public School District
Maple Valley Schools
Mason Public Schools (Ingham)
Michigan Department of Health and Human
Services
Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
Okemos Public Schools
Owosso Public Schools
Pottersville Public Schools
Redeemer Lutheran Church
St. Johns Public Schools
Stockbridge Community Schools



Region 7

Bangor Public Schools (Van Buren)
Bright Light Early Care & Education
Calhoun County Juvenile Home
Cassopolis Public Schools
Centreville Public Schools
Coldwater Community Schools
Coloma Community Schools
Comstock Public Schools
Constantine Public School District
Countryside Academy
Covert Public Schools
Decatur Public Schools
Edwardsburg Public Schools
Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Gull Lake Community Schools
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kids Time Inc.
Lawrence Public Schools
Learning Zone Preschool and Childcare
and GSRP
Mar Lee School District
Marcellus Community Schools
Mattawan Consolidated School
Mendon Community School District
Mildred C. Wells Preparatory Academy
Niles Community Schools
Parchment School District
Paw Paw Public School District
South Haven Public Schools
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School
St. Mary Assumption School
Three Rivers Community Schools
Tri County Council for Child Development
Union City Community Schools
Watervliet School District
Young Child Associates
YWCA Childrens Center

Region 8

Airport Community Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Bedford Public Schools
Chelsea School District
Concord Community Schools
Dexter Community School District
Dundee Community Schools
Hanover-Horton School District
Hillsdale Community Schools
Jackson Public Schools
Jefferson Schools (Monroe)
Lincoln Consolidated School District
Manchester Community Schools
Michigan Center School District
Milan Area Schools
Springport Public Schools
Summerfield Schools
The Monroe Family YMCA
Vandercook Lake Public Schools
Washtenaw ISD
Whitmore Lake Public School District



Regions 9 & 10

American International Academy
Armada Area Schools
Bloomfield Hills Schools
Center Line Public Schools
Chapel Hill Early Childhood Education
Chippewa Valley Schools
Clarenceville School District
Dearborn City School District
Dearborn Heights School District #7
Detroit Achievement Academy
Detroit Public Safety Academy
Detroit Public Schools Community District
Farmington Public School District
Ferndale Public Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools
George Washington Carver Academy
Harper Woods, The School District of the City of
Hazel Park, School District of the City of
Holly Area School District
Huron School District
Huron Valley Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools (Macomb)
Lamphere Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
Lincoln Park, School District of the City of
Little Jungle Network
Madison District Public Schools
Melvindale-North Allen Park Schools
Micah Nevah Non Profit Organization
Mount Clemens Community School District
New Haven Community Schools
Oak Park, School District of the City of
Old Redford Academy

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1
Richmond Community Schools
River Rouge, School District of the City of
Romulus Community Schools
Southfield Public School District
Southgate Community School District
Trenton Public Schools
Trinity Lutheran School
Troy School District
Van Buren Public Schools
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools
Wayne-Westland Community School District
West Bloomfield School District
Wyandotte, School District of the City of

