

# Maintaining Momentum

## for producing, selling, and distributing local food through the Michigan Local Food Purchase Assistance program

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) coordinates the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program from October 2022 through December 2026 to maintain and improve the resiliency in the food and farm supply chain. The program demonstrates that investments in local supply chains can provide beneficial impacts for Michigan farmers and communities.

Programs like Michigan Local Food Purchase Assistance can:



Invest financially in local and regional farm purchases



Increase buying power for food distributors



Improve relationships between food distributors and farmers



Create more efficient farm-based operations



Expand food distribution in new and existing locations



Provide farmers with new market opportunities



Develop educational material for farmers who have sold directly to a variety of markets



“The LFPA program has had a transformational impact on the community. The market created gives growers the support they need to see value in scaling their operations.”

– LFPA Michigan Evaluation Report



“The Michigan LFPA program demonstrates that coordinated partnerships, intentional relationship building, and strategic investments in local food systems can increase access to locally produced foods, strengthen farm operations, and support communities across the state.”

– LFPA Michigan Evaluation Report



LFPA proudly supported by USDA. LFPA concludes December 2026. All information in this document represents data during active LFPA programming.

Thanks to the seven LFPA food distribution partners: Eastern Market, Flint Fresh, Food Bank Council of Michigan, Kalamazoo Valley Community College/ValleyHUB, Mid Michigan Community Action, Thumb Food Policy Council, and West Michigan Food Processing Association and evaluation partner, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems.

## Surveyed farmers supplying the program reported experiencing:

- 100% Increase in sales
- 96% Increase in distribution throughout their local community
- 92% Expansion of geographical reach
- 46% Increase in market demand, planning, and food production

## Surveyed farmers reported a reduction in barriers related to:

- 86% Transportation efforts
- 76% Rising production costs
- 69% Storage and labor costs

## Increased access to healthy foods can support healthier Michigan communities\*



Investing in locally and regionally produced foods can support vulnerable populations, kids, and older adults



Eating more fruits and vegetables can reduce risk of chronic disease\*

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (January 23, 2025). Healthy food environments. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/php/healthy-food-environments/index.html>



“The biggest impact on our end from LFPFA has been the buying power.”

– MI LFPFA implementing partner



“LFPFA taught us how to buy local. The network of pantries and community support agencies that they have worked with are glad to have developed new systems to be able to spend their food purchasing dollars with local farmers and producers, so that they can have twice the impact. After working with some of our growers to design and provide labels, we received a shipment of salad greens from one of our farms with a new label that they had independently designed and produced. Support from LFPFA built their capacity to carry on labeling household packs of produce within their regular operations.”

– MI LFPFA distribution partner



“Michigan LFPFA improved local and regional food supply chains, expanded economic opportunities for local farmers throughout Michigan, and increased purchases from farmers at fair market values, using food that would have been sold at reduced pricing or unused surplus in previous years. LFPFA is a win-win-win for local producers, Michigan food distributors, and our food insecure neighbors who have access to high quality, nutritious food grown by farmers in their own communities. It has strengthened the bond between our Michigan farmers and their communities and planted long-term relationships that benefit everyone involved.”

– Tom Priest, Michigan Department of Education

Scan the QR code to see stories from the field



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