10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids & Farms (10 Cents a Meal) is a state-funded program that matches what schools and other non-school sponsors spend on Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans with grants of up to 10 cents per meal. This resource shows how the program works and contributes to the core goals of improving eating habits for children and investing in Michigan’s agriculture.

**INTERVENTION STATEMENT**

Awarded food programs receive match reimbursement funding to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.

**KEY TERMS**

- **FPMs** means food program managers.
- **Michigan suppliers** means growers, producers, processors, distributors, food hubs, and other food and agriculture businesses.
- **Fruits, vegetables, and dry beans** means whole or minimally processed fruits, vegetables, and dry beans that are grown in Michigan and, if minimally processed, are also processed in Michigan.

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**RESULTS FOR CHILDREN**

- FPMs have additional funding for food programs that serve children.
- FPMs purchase and serve a larger quantity of fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- FPMs purchase and serve a wider variety of fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- FPMs develop new relationships with Michigan suppliers.
- Food programs that serve children raise awareness of local fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- Children choose, try, and like Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- Children eat more fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- Children establish healthier eating habits.
- Children are healthier.

**RESULTS FOR SUPPLIERS**

- Funds are available for the purchase of Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans.
- Michigan suppliers, including small- and medium-scale suppliers, sell more Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables and dry beans for food programs that serve children.
- Funds allocated leverage additional purchases from Michigan suppliers.
- Michigan suppliers increase their sales to schools and non-school sponsors that serve food to children.
- Michigan suppliers increase their profitability.
- Michigan suppliers recirculate profits in the local economy.
- Michigan’s local economies are stronger.
10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms (10 Cents a Meal) is a state-funded program that matches what schools and other non-school sponsors spend on Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans with grants of up to 10 cents per meal. Grant amounts are determined by multiplying a year’s worth of meals by 10 cents. This program is designed to improve daily nutrition and eating habits for Michigan children and invest in Michigan’s agriculture and local food business economy.

Of course, other factors influence these goals—we are aiming to show how 10 Cents a Meal directly advances them. The framework intends to illustrate the theory of change and does not include metrics for the result statements.

10 Cents a Meal creates opportunities for schools and other food programs that serve children beyond the core program goals. For example, participating grantees are encouraged to conduct nutrition education and food promotion activities.

Serving and sourcing Michigan-grown food can naturally enhance these activities by helping children and the local community understand where their food comes from. By building these kinds of connections, grantees can create a culture that celebrates healthy, Michigan-grown food and includes food program staff as partners in advancing education.

All schools and non-school sponsors across the state that participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) that serve lunch across the state are eligible to apply for 10 Cents a Meal grants.

In the future, the program could be designed to include strategies to reduce health disparities, further strengthen local food supply chains, and support BIPOC-(Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), women-, and veteran-owned businesses.