



**News:** 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms is a grant opportunity available to sponsors of early care and education centers and other non-school sponsors that are successfully participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and other federal child nutrition programs.

**What it is:** 10 Cents a Meal is a Michigan Department of Education competitive grant program that matches what schools, eligible early child care centers, and non-school sponsors of federal child nutrition programs spend on Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes with grants of up to 10 cents per meal.

**Funding potential for you:** Annual matching grant funds are available to assist you with purchasing and serving Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. If you are a CACFP sponsor for an early care and education center in Michigan you are eligible to apply. Sponsors may apply on behalf of any number of their sites based upon interest. To clarify: if you receive reimbursement directly from the State of Michigan for your child nutrition program, you are eligible. If you are reimbursed through another sponsor, you are not directly eligible. Please encourage your sponsor to apply!

**How this program can support your efforts:** Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) helps develop capabilities to meet several goals in the Early Childhood Standards of Quality approved by the Michigan State Board of Education for infants, toddlers, and prekindergarten including:

- Infants and toddlers experience environments where their physical health is promoted;
- Children become aware of and begin to develop nutritional habits that contribute to health;
- Children begin to have knowledge about and make age-appropriate healthy choices in daily life.

**How the program works:** This is a matching grant. Grantees must spend twice their awarded grant amount on Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. Applicants have the option of requesting less than a 100% grant. Starting slow is fine! Grantees must provide documentation of their local food purchases to MDE and respond to periodic online surveys. If you would like to get a sense of how applicants are scored, look at the application guide at [www.tencentsmichigan.org](http://www.tencentsmichigan.org) on the [10 Cents Grant Application Info](#) page.

**Engaging kids in local food:** The Michigan legislature wants to see that children who are served Michigan-grown foods through this program benefit from activities that get them engaged in eating it! Activities could include gardens, fun taste-testing activities, maybe even a visit from a farmer! You can find ideas at [www.canr.msu.edu/michigan-farm-to-ece/index](http://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan-farm-to-ece/index) and on the [Early Care and Education](#) page at [www.tencentsmichigan.org](http://www.tencentsmichigan.org).

**Results for kids:** In 2020-2021, grantees reported that new products tried for the first time were 32 types of vegetables and 14 types of fruits. Top 10 new Michigan-grown foods served were apples, asparagus, blueberries, dry beans/legumes, cherries, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, summer squash, and root vegetables. Increasing locally grown products in Michigan early care and education settings supports learning opportunities as well as life-long health and wellness for children, families, and caregivers.

**More information:** [www.tencentsmichigan.org](http://www.tencentsmichigan.org)