

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms is sparking healthy choices and a vibrant economy by providing schools and early care and education centers with match incentive funding to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables and legumes.

Status in Michigan: The Michigan legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer increased funding from \$2 million to \$5 million for 10 Cents a Meal in the 2022 budget in its second year of being statewide and available to early care and education centers and other eligible organizations feeding children through federal child nutrition programs. Advocates celebrated the state's strong affirmation for investing in healthy, locally grown food for children in schools and early childhood centers, even in the face of a tight state budget. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has strained the supply chain, showing the importance and need for strong, local food systems.

Ways to Get Engaged:

Learn more: Find lots of information at <u>tencentsmichigan.org</u>, including <u>legislative reports</u>, <u>success</u> <u>stories</u>, <u>grant application information</u> and more. You can also sign up for the 10 Cents a Meal <u>e-newsletter</u>.

Sign on as a supporter: Add your name to the list of people and organizations that embrace investing in local food for kids in schools, early childhood centers, and communities as a positive part of Michigan's identity. If you want, you can also be alerted to opportunities for advocacy.

Spread the word: Raise awareness about this innovative program with health and economy advocates, school boards, teachers, PTAs, food service staff, state legislators, and other leaders. You'll find hand-outs at <u>Tools for Communities</u> at the tencentsmichigan.org web site.

Help schools and early childhood centers seize the opportunity: You can help schools and early childhood centers understand how to be strong applicants and grantees. A good start is the Grant Application Guide on the <u>10 Cents Grant Application Information page</u> on <u>tencentsmichigan.org</u>. Grant applications open at the end of summer. A second round may be offered if funding is available.

Support schools and ECE Centers in success: Successful grantees engage children to get them excited about trying new foods. Examples include taste tests in the cafeteria or classroom and fun facts about how healthy food is good for their bodies. Food service staff and educators alike would welcome your help. More ideas are on the <u>Build Your Farm to School Program</u> and <u>Early Care and Education</u> pages of <u>Tools for Schools & Early Care and Education</u>.

Get social: Like, follow, and share the 10 Cents a Meal Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.