Good morning,

We hope that everyone is having a nice start to fall season! We are reaching out with 10 Cents a Meal updates and reminders for September 2025, along with other upcoming opportunities available.

**24-25 Program Year Reminders**

The 24-25 program year for 10 Cents a Meal ends September 30, 2025. The final deadline for submitting eligible 10 Cents a Meal purchases in GEMS/MARS is **October 14, 2025**.

You may submit any outstanding purchases for qualifying Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans back to September 1, 2024. You may also submit purchase data for qualifying transportation and labor expenses that support the program. Payments will be made in the November 2025 State Aid payments and via fiduciary to non-school grantees.

For schools, this portion of program revenue should not be recognized in SY 2025 as it will not be received within 60 days of districts’ year-end and instead should be recorded as SY 2026 revenue. Section 31j revenue should be recorded as Major Class 312, Suffix 0110, and the Grant Code for expenditures is 373. Our [2024-2025 Program Year Payment and Fiscal Information](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/payment-and-fiscal-information-2425-updated-11025.pdf?rev=2baea2253475420ba2879a0af62ef062&hash=55AF0A6220DCCB4A57C04085A0D89035) document is available for reference.

**Reporting Survey III**

The third and final reporting survey for the 24-25 program year was sent to each grantee’s main contact on August 25, 2025. Responses are due September 15, 2025.

If you have not completed reporting survey III yet, please do so by the September 15 due date. If you have questions or need assistance, please let us know in a response to this email.

**25-26 Application**

The 25-26 application is available in NexSys through **September 17, 2025**, and **must be initiated and submitted by a level 5 NexSys user.**

There is a [2025-2026 Application Scoring Rubric](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/2025-2026-10-Cents-a-Meal-Application-Scoring-Rubric.pdf?rev=bf63079871cf4b56a0873a17f8860716&hash=6CC58B6D36DEA0D726323BA72BEE7F19) available so that applicants know what we are looking for when scoring applications. The rubric contains guidance on what details to include in responses to the application questions on the Program Information page to receive a higher application score, and all applicants should refer to the rubric as they complete the application. 50% of an applicant’s score will consist of the Program Information page responses and any bonus points for submitting the application early.

50% of the application score for returning applicants will be based on their ability to spend their requested award for the 24-25 program year and complete the required reporting surveys. New grantees will be given a boost in past performance points.

The 25-26 in-person program and application training sessions have ended, but a recorded version of the training along with the scoring rubric and virtual application walkthrough are all available on the [How to Apply](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/office-of-health-and-nutrition-services/10-cents-a-meal-for-michigans-kids-and-farms/how-to-apply) page.

**Lake Michigan School Food System Spark and Innovation Collaborative Awards Update**

Do you know a way to bring local, nutritious food to more schools across our region?

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, our evaluation partner for 10 Cents a Meal, is a part of the [Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Finnovateschoolfood.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMaddoxM2%40michigan.gov%7C9d72552229b24738f44608ddebc530ad%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C638925954351863569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OpptiKyzEaVzpAx%2FsFqFua%2B1OnHKOXg7QLaWIRGgDWM%3D&reserved=0), which supports people working to improve school meals across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The initiative offers funding, training, and other assistance to partnerships that include farmers, food producers, suppliers, distributors, schools, and organizations.

Applications for two new funding opportunities will open October 15, 2025: the Spark Awards and the Innovation Collaborative Awards.

* **Spark Awards** fund projects that need a short-term infusion of funds for school food system and product improvements, such as capacity-building, planning, and product-testing projects ($30K - $100K per year).
* **Innovation Collaborative Awards** fund projects that promote systems-level change of the school food system, such as scaling up of programs, forming regional partnerships, or developing or integrating new programs or products ($250K - $500K over 2.5 years).

Visit the [Support for Michigan Applicants Page](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canr.msu.edu%2Ffarm_to_school%2Finnovation-hub&data=05%7C02%7CMaddoxM2%40michigan.gov%7C10c5ee9c625747fed54808ddebdd8b6c%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C638926058943503877%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wIkpar3v%2FxaoJKq6%2F2oYT5WkVHffKCWCGKCFY2ie7uw%3D&reserved=0) to connect with Michigan's state leads, develop project ideas, form, and manage partnerships, connect with resources, answer questions about your application, and strengthen your grant-writing by reviewing and/or editing your application! Learn more at [InnovateSchoolFood.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Finnovateschoolfood.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMaddoxM2%40michigan.gov%7C10c5ee9c625747fed54808ddebdd8b6c%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C638926058943517878%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b5yq3eeq5KnYwbhclm0rp7X2vvZNkGyki%2F%2BHG%2FpREpk%3D&reserved=0), and contact your State Lead, Julie Lehman, with any questions.

Thank you for all you do for Michigan’s children, keeping them healthy through the meals you serve. If you have any questions, please reach out to MDE-FarmToProgram@Michigan.gov or schedule a virtual Teams meeting with us by using our [Microsoft Bookings](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foutlook.office365.com%2Fowa%2Fcalendar%2FFarmtoProgramTeam%40StateofMichigan.onmicrosoft.com%2Fbookings%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMDE-FarmToProgram%40michigan.gov%7C998554c746664115e4c008ddbe328c3a%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C638875846483010837%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cYO2M%2BJCz3wbZqchIIZDe6TVbpnd57p5efrjuKn2qEg%3D&reserved=0) page.

Sincerely,

Megan and Wendy

Farm to Program Team

Office of Nutrition Services

Michigan Department of Education