

What is the Local Food for Schools (LFS) Program?

The USDA is providing funding to help with the challenges of supply chain disruptions. This program will strengthen the food system for schools by helping to build a fair, competitive, and resilient local food chain with an emphasis on purchasing from historically underserved producers and processors. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been awarded and will serve as a pass-through for funding by reimbursing School Food Authorities (SFA's) for qualifying purchases.

Who is eligible for Local Food for Schools?

All SFA's participating in the National School Lunch Program have been allocated an award using past meal counts and a fair-share calculation. A list of the allocations will be provided in upcoming trainings but also posted to our website here:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/food-distribution/local-purchasing>

What Food Purchases Can Your School Be Reimbursed for with LFS Funds?

LFS funds will reimburse SFA's for the purchase of Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, legumes, grains, dairy, proteins, and honey. These Michigan grown foods can be unprocessed or minimally processed which includes cut, whole, frozen, or dried. SFA's should focus on purchasing from underserved, socially disadvantaged farmers and producers which is outlined further below.

LFS funds CAN be used for what programs?

The National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Option, or After School Snack Program. LFS fruit, vegetable, and legume purchases may be used as part of the match requirement for the 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms program.

LFS funds can NOT be used for what programs?

The Special Milk Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Summer Foodservice Program, or Child and Adult Care Food Program. The food purchased with LFS funds must be used as part of a reimbursable meal or snack.

Allowed Foods:

- Michigan-grown foods
- Minimally processed foods including whole, cut, fresh, frozen, or dried.
- Dairy products such as milk, shelf stable milk, cheese, and yogurt. Flavored milk and yogurt are acceptable.
- Fruits such as apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, pears, raspberries/blackberries in fresh, cut, or frozen.
- Vegetables such as broccoli, carrots, peas, lettuce, in fresh, cut, or frozen.
- Grains such as rice, corn, oats, whole grain pasta, or whole wheat flour.

- Animal products that are whole, in pieces, or ground. Such as chicken breast, turkey/ham deli meat, ground turkey/beef, eggs, canned seafood. Burgers may be in patty-form and frozen, but not cooked.
- Legumes such as garbanzo beans, kidney beans, black beans, and lentils.
- Maple syrup and honey.

Not Allowed:

- Food that is grown and/or processed outside of Michigan.
- Any food item that has been cooked and canned such as applesauce or baked beans. Note: You may cook or can the items after purchase.
- Grains that have been altered such as baked goods, crackers, breads, muffins, tortilla chips, pizza, and ready-to-eat breakfast cereals.
- Meat and food that is ready-to-eat or requires no further preparation than heating. Examples include chicken nuggets, pizza, and hot dogs.
- Food items purchased using Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) funds cannot also be submitted for LFS reimbursement.

What are the program dates?

The program runs October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. There will be a series of payments made between January 2023 and October 2023. Note: If an SFA has not completed an LFS training (w/certificate) or submitted any invoice data by June 10, 2023, their unspent allocation will be reallocated to participating SFA's.

What is considered a historically underserved producer and processor?

For the purpose of this program, "socially disadvantaged" is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group. A Socially Disadvantaged Group is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Note: While purchasing from a socially disadvantaged farmer, rancher, and small businesses is not a requirement, it is a target of this program.

What is the grant code to use?

CFDA/ALN#: 10.185, Accounting Grant Code: 851X, MDE Program ID#: 230985

Resources

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfs>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/food-distribution/local-purchasing>