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## **Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) News from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)**

**February 28, 2025**

### **NEW! Insights Into the Stories of 10 Cents a Meal Farmers**

A new 10 Cents a Meal publication shares key needs and themes reported by farmers to support their work supplying local foods to schools, early care and education centers, and 10 Cents a Meal program grantees. These findings were the result of a series of discussions in the fall of 2024, with eight individuals representing small farms and businesses around the state. Access the resource and learn more at the MI Farm to School [webpage](#).

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### **Research Interview Opportunity**

MDE is partnering with Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and Michigan State University (MSU) to conduct research on understanding challenges and opportunities surrounding participation in School Nutrition programs and local food purchasing initiatives experienced by your local school food authority. MPHI is planning to conduct research interviews with a sample of food service professionals across Michigan. The first round of interviews was conducted in

spring 2024. This second round of interviews will be conducted this winter and spring 2025.

Participation in the interview is voluntary. Everything shared, including names and contact information, will remain confidential with the MPHI team. The feedback collected will help MPHI identify the challenges and enabling factors School Food Authority (SFAs) face and to formulate strategies and recommendations. These recommendations will be shared in aggregate with the Michigan Department of Education and other stakeholders and no individual names or information will be shared in the reports. The feedback will not be used to evaluate you or your program.

These 60-minute interviews can be virtual or over the phone and will be led by an experienced staff member from MPHI. Each participant will receive a \$50 gift card for their time. The MPHI research team is going to select a subset of SFAs based on a variety of geographical locations, school district sizes, participation in federal and state nutrition programs, and food service operation types. The MPHI research team will reach out to selected food service professionals through phone and/or email in the month of January or February to schedule interviews. The interviews will be conducted in March and April of this school year.

For questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Monal R. Shroff at [mshroff@mphi.org](mailto:mshroff@mphi.org) or by calling 517-324-8355.

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## **FoodCorps Applications Available for 2025-2026!**

[FoodCorps](#) partners with schools and communities to nourish kids' health, education, and sense of belonging. Each year, Public Health AmeriCorps Members partner with K-12 schools for a full school year teaching kids to grow, cook, and love the nourishing foods that celebrate their cultures and communities—and help schools serve more of those foods, too. FoodCorps recruits talented leaders into full-time, paid public service, where they grow healthy school food environments in diverse communities through hands-on, experiential food education.

Most of the time is spent teaching in the classroom and garden, but there are opportunities to support school meals changes on a district level as well. Read more about the positions [here](#).

We have [sites](#) in Michigan (Detroit, Petoskey, Flint, and near Alpena) and throughout the country. Our applications are open through March 3, 2025, for next year's cohort (August '25-July '26).

Benefits of AmeriCorps national service in Michigan include a \$33,000 stipend paid bi-weekly (this is a full-time, 11-month commitment), a \$7,395 Segal

Education Award upon successful completion of the program, health, dental and vision insurance, as well as student loan forbearance.

Here is the link with more details and to apply: <https://foodcorps.org/apply/>.

Questions can be directed to [seema.jolly@foodcorps.org](mailto:seema.jolly@foodcorps.org)

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## **Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub Spark Awards – Application and Webinar Paused**

**Grant cycles will continue to be offered through 2028; more information forthcoming.**

Grant applications for Spark Awards provided through the Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub were set to open on February 14, 2025, but this date has been temperately paused. Stay tuned for more information.

The "Innovation Hub," supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative and convened by the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI), will offer grants this year from \$30K to \$100K to collectives of farmers, food producers, school food authorities, industry partners, and other people working to reimagine school meals in IL, MI, WI, and IN. Learn more about the grant on our website: [innovateschoolfood.org](http://innovateschoolfood.org)! Want to learn more? To explore resources, join office hours, and/or connect with the State Lead Team at MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, please complete our [Interest Form](#).

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## **Revised Claim Submission 60-Day Deadline Schedule and Late Claim Exception Options**

[Food Service Administrative Memo No. 3](#) was revised on January 15, 2025, and new information was added to page 3, reminding Food Service Management Company (FSMC) employees that they may not be approved for Level 3 (read/write/certify) access in MIND 2.0.

### **Claim Level Access**

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) employees are restricted to Level 1 (read only) or Level 2 (read/write) access in MIND 2.0. FSMC employees *may not* be approved for Level 3 (read/write/certify) access.

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## National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month® (NNM) is an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Since 1973, it has been held annually in March and focuses its attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. This year's NNM theme is "Food Connects Us." Food is a connecting factor for many of us. Food connects us to our cultures, our families, and our friends. Sharing a meal is an opportunity to learn about its preparation, who made it, and where the ingredients were sourced. Health, memories, traditions, seasons, and access can all impact our relationship with food. While these factors influence the foods we eat, the foods we eat also affect our health.

Sponsors can celebrate NNM in several ways with these [ideas](#) and [resources](#) from the Academy. For trademark and copyright, terms and conditions, and to request to use NNM mark, themes, graphics, and assets, please visit the [NNM website](#). March also includes Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN) and Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR) day (March 12, 2025, and March 13, 2025, respectively). Be sure to celebrate these professionals in your life and their impact on child nutrition next month!

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## HMI Recognition Awards

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (HMI), Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is offering Recognition Awards to celebrate sponsors that have made significant improvements to the nutritional quality of their school meals. The Recognition Awards will spotlight innovative practices, student and community engagement activities, and strategies schools have used to provide meals that are consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Interested sponsors can learn more about this opportunity on the [HMI Recognition Awards Webpage](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through **June 30th, 2025**, via the [My AFHK Portal](#). Before completing an application, sponsors must obtain a State Agency Letter of Support to disclose that they do not have any outstanding corrective actions and that any previous findings have been resolved. Applicants can request a letter of support from MDE [HERE](#).

Have questions about this opportunity? Please make plans to attend the **Michigan HMI Recognition Awards** Application Webinar at 2:30pm EST on April 16, 2025. [Registration](#) is required. Questions about the Recognition Awards and application can also be emailed to: [award@healthymealsincentives.org](mailto:award@healthymealsincentives.org).

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# Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Operational Memos

For information on SFSP Annual Sponsor Training including dates and how to register, please see [Operational Memo #1](#).

For information on the 2025 SFSP Reimbursement Rates for Program Sponsors, please see [Operational Memo #2](#).

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## Direct Certification Reminder

The Direct Certification Report is available for all school districts, including non-public schools, through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). All public and non-public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program **must** access the Direct Certification report at least three times per school year:

- at or around the beginning of the school year
- three months after the initial effort
- six months after the initial effort

It is the sponsoring School Food Authority's (SFA) responsibility to make sure all students that are attending schools with an alternate agreement with your district are receiving the correct benefits. This includes accessing the Direct Certification report.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools are required to run direct certification at least once a school year. However, it is best practice to run it more frequently to support efforts to identify students for Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility in MSDS collections, to support students experiencing foster care, and calculating Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for future CEP applications.

[Frequently Asked Questions for Direct Certification Requirements for Public and Non-public Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs in School Year 2024 - 2025](#) has additional information about direct certification basics, MSDS collections, nonpublic schools, and direct certification refresh dates.

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## New MIND 2.0 Dashboard and Features

If you have logged in to the Michigan Nutrition Data System (MIND 2.0) recently, you will notice a new look. The dashboard has been updated with relevant informational cards for the different programs or systems you participate in.

To access the claim sub-systems, simply click on “MIND Legacy” in the left menu bar. The user management and access request function has also been overhauled and is available from the left menu. Same functions, new location.

## Resources and Training

Our team has created some training materials to assist you through the transition. See the following links for more information.

- [MIND Dashboard - Help Page](#)
- [MIND Request Access - Help Page](#)
- [MIND User Management - Help Page](#)
- [MIND Year End Report - Help Page](#)

## System Access Help

If you have any trouble accessing this or any other system, contact us at [MDE-ONS-Access@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ONS-Access@Michigan.gov). In the meantime:

- If you are unsure of what system you need access to, you can find a summary of each of the systems and what they do [HERE](#).
- If you need step by step instructions for getting access to a system, you can find instructions [HERE](#).
- You can find ALL of the system help documents [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday at 2

**Date:** March 4, 2025

**Time:** 2-2:30 PM

**Topic:** Coming changes for NSLP Meal Pattern

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Or Telephone:

USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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**Tuesday at 2**

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**Time:** 2-2:30 PM

**Topic:** Professional Standards

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Or Telephone:

USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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**Tuesday at 2**

**Date:** March 18, 2025

**Time:** 2-2:30 PM

**Topic:** Procurement Series - Equipment Procurement

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Or Telephone:

USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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**Tuesday at 2**

**Date:** April 15, 2025

**Time:** 2-2:30 PM

**Topic:** Procurement Series - Shifting Food Service Operations

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Or Telephone:

USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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## **Michigan HMI Awards Application Webinar**

**Date:** April 16, 2025

**Time:** 2:30 PM

Registration required

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## **Tuesday at 2**

**Date:** April 22, 2025

**Time:** 2-2:30 PM

**Topic:** Food Safety

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Or Telephone:

USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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## **Training Corner**

### **School Meal Overview Workshops Offered**

The staff of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) School Nutrition Programs Unit is pleased to host a hands-on, activity-based workshop for food service personnel titled "School Meals Overview Workshop." This training is targeted to several specific areas: menu development, recipes and labels, production records, meal component tool, cycle menus, application processing, counting and claiming, direct certification, and verification. The workshop will provide active sessions where food service personnel can interact with MDE staff to resolve any issues that would result in findings during an Administrative Review.

The workshop consists of two days – Day One will cover nutrition related information and Day Two will cover administrative information. There is no cost for the workshop and participants are welcome to come one or both days.

Two Locations:

- **Dates:** Tuesday, April 23, 2025, and Wednesday, April 24, 2025
- **Location:** Washtenaw ISD, Teaching & Learning Center, 1819 S. Wagner Rd, Ann Arbor
- **Registration links** for [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#) (each day must be registered for separately)
- **Dates:** Wednesday, June 11, and Thursday, June 12, 2025
- **Location:** Delta Schoolcraft ISD, 2525 3rd Ave S., Escanaba, MI 49829
- **Registration** links for [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#) (each day must be registered for separately)

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## Contact Us

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov)

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates and Bulletins, visit [Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates Subscription](#).

## Support

### School Nutrition Programs

[www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition)

Email: [MDE-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov)

### Summer Food Service Program

[www.michigan.gov/sfsp](http://www.michigan.gov/sfsp)

Email: [mde-sfsp@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-sfsp@michigan.gov)

### Child and Adult Care Food Program

[www.michigan.gov/cacfp](http://www.michigan.gov/cacfp)

Email: [mde-cacfp@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-cacfp@michigan.gov)

### Food Distribution

[www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp)

Email: [mde-fmfd@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-fmfd@michigan.gov)

### Fiscal and Administrative Services

[www.michigan.gov/mde-fast](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-fast)

Email: [MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov)

### Procurement and Contracts

[www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts)

[www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts)

Email: [mde-fsmc-vended@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-fsmc-vended@michigan.gov)

### School Health and Safety

[www.michigan.gov/cshsp](http://www.michigan.gov/cshsp)

Email: [mdeschoolhealthsafety@michigan.gov](mailto:mdeschoolhealthsafety@michigan.gov)

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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