



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

May 30, 2025

How are we doing?

MDE has created a quick survey to get your thoughts on how the office is doing with communication. MDE would really appreciate if you would take a couple minutes out of your day to take the survey. The survey will close on Friday, June 13.

[Survey link](#)

New Social Media Campaign: What's For Lunch?

MDE is starting a new social media campaign that will highlight the great lunches being served throughout our state. It will highlight lunches being served in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. Get involved by showing off the great lunches being served. Please share your pictures and story by filling out the form at the link below. Pictures will be shared on [MDE's Facebook Page](#).

[What's For Lunch?](#)

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms Updates and Reminders

2025-2026 Application and Training Sessions Coming Soon!

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms (10 Cents a Meal) provides grant funds to pay for Michigan-grown food, local food transportation fees, and food service labor expenses to strengthen the local food supply chain and enrich nutrition and educational experiences for children. Sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast program (NSLP/SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are eligible to apply.

The new program year application is expected to be available in NexSys in early June 2025. To assist grantees with the application and using the [2025-2026 scoring rubric](#) there are several in-person training sessions available. Whether you are thinking about participating in the 10 Cents a Meal program for the first time or are an experienced grantee, join a session to learn how 10 Cents a Meal works, what is needed to participate, and how to apply.

Bring your laptop if you would like help with completing your application during a session or just bring your questions. For grantees unable to attend in-person, there will also be a virtual option. Attendance is free; however, all attendees are required to register.

- Escanaba – June 10, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Bay City – June 16, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Kalamazoo – June 23, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Traverse City – June 25, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Fruitport – June 26, 2025, 9-11am (EST) [Register](#)
- Mason/Ingham – August 7, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Macomb - August 14, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Flint – August 18, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Virtual training – TBD

Michigan Farm to Program Directory Now Available

The [Michigan Farm to Program Directory](#) has officially launched! This Directory is a searchable database of both suppliers and buyers of Michigan-grown products. This tool was developed by the Michigan Department of Education and its partners to make it easier for food program operators to purchase and serve Michigan fresh produce, and to help Michigan farmers and food suppliers connect with new customers. The Directory primarily supports grantees of the 10 Cents a Meal Program, but other institutions that want to purchase Michigan foods are welcome to register as buyers in the Directory. Farmers, food hubs, and other suppliers of local Michigan foods that are interested in selling local foods to Michigan institutions are invited to register as suppliers in the Directory. Need help registering as a buyer

or supplier? User guides are also available on the [Resources](#) page of the 10 Cents a Meal section of the Michigan Department of Education website.

Please contact MDE-FarmtoProgram@Michigan.gov with any 10 Cents a Meal questions.

Education and Nutrition Benefits Application (Federal Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals)

The Education and Nutrition Benefits prototype documents and letters to households for School Year 2025-2026 are updated and posted to the [Education and Nutrition Benefits](#) webpage.

Details

- The Education and Nutrition Benefits application must be collected annually beginning July 1 of each school year. Applications must be complete for proper approval and are valid for the entire school year.
- The Michigan School Meals program provides additional State funding to allow every breakfast and lunch served to be reimbursed at the free rate for public schools, public school academies, and Intermediate School Districts (ISDs).
- For **Traditional Claiming Schools**, even though all meals are free for students, an Education and Nutrition Benefits application must still be collected, processed, and a student benefit must be established for every eligible student. Meals must be counted and claimed by the correct student benefit.

Important Note for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools

- Schools that are Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and participating in the Michigan School Meals program need to distribute and collect [Education Benefits forms](#). Without this information, your district/school could lose important state funding for educational programs that your students are entitled to. [These resources](#) are to help with communicating to families why forms are still necessary.

Questions regarding Student Eligibility and Education and Nutrition Benefits may be directed to MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov and MickelsonN@michigan.gov.

Sign Up for New Director Class

Core Competencies for New Directors class registration is open for School Year (SY) 25-26. Have you been a food service director for two years or less? Then this is the class for you. Join us monthly beginning August 2025, through May 2026, to gain basic School Meals program information, network with other new food service directors, and connect with MDE staff. [Register](#) today!

Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Reminder

Is your Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment complete? If it has been three years (or more) since your last triennial assessment by your Wellness Committee, it is due by June 30. All National School Lunch Program sponsors are required to complete an assessment every three years. Resources are available on the [MDE website](#).

Looking For Volunteers to Add Plant-Based Meals

Balanced, a nonprofit dedicated to nutrition security and institutional menu change, is launching a new *plant-forward learning cohort*—and they are looking for five to eight schools to join! **Balanced is looking for Food Service Directors (FSDs) who have a strong interest in incorporating plant-based meals into their menus**, who can participate in four training webinars, and report monthly on progress.

- \$2,500 grant to support plant-based protein implementation
- Six-month flexible learning experience
- Monthly webinars, themed guidebooks, marketing tools
- Procurement support with access to approved vendors
- Personalized assistance from a team that includes *former school food pros* who understand your challenges and goals

This builds on the success of eight grant-funded pilots in Illinois—and now balance is bringing that momentum to Michigan.

Not ready to join the cohort? No problem! Balanced offers [free resources](#), training, and tailored support to any school interested in serving more plant-forward meals.

If interested, please [fill out this short interest form](#) and they will get back to you.

2026 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application is currently open for the 2026 Fiscal Year (FY). To access the application, you will need to have a [MiLogin for Business](#) account and access to [NexSys](#) in [MiLogin](#). Applications must be submitted in NexSys by 5:00 PM ET on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

The FFVP grant is a competitive grant based on free and reduced-price meal eligibility. Elementary schools (K-6) participating in the National School Lunch Program with an eligibility percentage of 50% or more can apply. The [FY 2026 Fresh FFVP Eligibility List](#) and [Application Guide](#) is available on the MDE FFVP [How to Apply](#) website. Additional information about this program is available on the MDE [FFVP website](#) and in the [FFVP Online Training Module](#).

Applicants looking for support can email the FFVP Consultant at MDE-FFVP@Michigan.gov, or can book one-on-one support call via Microsoft Teams using the following link: [Schedule Meeting with Callie Gavorek](#).

Farm to Summer Week Begins Monday, July 14, 2025!

Farm to Summer Week is July 14-18, 2025. All Summer Food Service Program Sponsors can participate! Michigan is among the most agriculturally diverse state in the U.S. and Michigan's shorter growing season means summer is the best time to source and serve Michigan produce! This summer, increase your participation by purchasing and promoting local produce into your menus. Focusing on fruits and vegetables in your summer program is also a great way to teach healthy habits that last a lifetime!

This year, the Farm to Summer team is highlighting cucumber, watermelon and mint. How can you incorporate this produce into your menu? Check out recipes, fun facts and challenges below, and don't forget to send us pictures!

Cucumber

Recipes:

- [Brown Rice Tabbouleh | MyPlate](#) (This recipe includes mint too)
- [Cucumber Sandwich Recipe - SHK](#)

Challenge:

- Have kids make a snake out of a cucumber and other vegetables.
- [Vegetable Snake | MyPlate](#)



Fun Facts About Cucumber!

- Humans have grown and eaten cucumbers for at least 3,000 years
- There are over 120 different varieties of cucumbers
- Cucumbers are one of the most widely grown vegetables worldwide
- The composition of a raw cucumber with its peel is 95% water. According to the Guinness World Records, the world record for the longest cucumber is 42.1 inches.
- According to the Guinness World Records, the world record for the heaviest cucumber is 23 pounds and 7 ounces.

Watermelon

Recipes:

- [Fruit Kabobs with Yogurt Dip | MyPlate](#)
- [Melon and Mint | MyPlate](#) (This recipe includes mint too)

Challenge:

- Have kids create their own watermelon pizza!
- [Sweet Watermelon Pizza - Healthy School Recipes](#) (This recipe includes mint too)



Fun Facts About Watermelon!

- Watermelon is considered both a fruit and a vegetable
- The heaviest watermelon weighed over 350 pounds
- Watermelons grow on a vine and are related to cucumbers and pumpkins
- In some cultures, people use watermelon rinds to make pickles and jams
- Watermelons are full of antioxidants that help to keep your body healthy and strong

Mint

Challenge:

- What can you do with mint?

Fun Facts About Mint!

- Mint gets its name from Menthe a Greek mythical character
 - Mint comes in over 30 varieties
 - Mint produces a cooling and relaxing effect
 - Smelling mint can increase your alertness
 - Mint is a natural insect repellent
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2026 CNP: Coordinated Application – Important Information

The 2026 CNP: Coordinated Application is now available for all sponsors who participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or Summer Food Service Program. Application due dates are based on when you need a claim to be available. Please refer to the chart below for due dates:

Claim Month	Due Date
If you need a July 2025 claim	Monday, June 30th
If you need an August 2025 claim	Thursday, July 31st
If you need a September 2025 claim	Thursday, August 28th
If you need an October 2025 claim	Tuesday, September 30th

Important Things to Know:

- Initiating the 2026 Application
 - Please make sure that you are correctly initiating your 2025 application by selecting the option that includes “**COORDAPP-2025... (Application Approved)**”. Then click “Proceed”.
 - If you choose the option, “DO NOT COPY FORWARD” then none of the data from your previous application will pull forward into your new application and you will start with a blank application. This would cause a lot more work for your organization!

CNP: Coordinated Application

Provided By: Office of Health and Nutrition Services

Provided To:

Copy Forward Document: COORDAPP-2025- (Application Approved)

NexSys CNP Applications Availability Dates: 3/3/2025 3:00:00 PM -

Due Date: N/A

Proceed Cancel

- Resources to help sponsors with completing the application:
 - There are program specific user guides and application page specific resources available [HERE](#).
- Resources to help sponsors with access to the application:

- Information on how Level 5 users can add people to their organization and application in NexSys can be found [HERE](#).

If you have any questions about your application, please contact your program analyst or send an email to MDE-NutritionCoordination@Michigan.gov.

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. 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](#).
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Upcoming Events

School Meals Overview Workshop

Date: June 11-12, 2025

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Delta Schoolcraft ISD, 2525 3rd Ave S., Escanaba, MI 49829

Registration: [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#)

Contact Us

Email: 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

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Summer Food Service Program

www.Michigan.gov/SFSP

Email: MDE-SFSP@Michigan.gov

Child and Adult Care Food Program

www.Michigan.gov/CACFP

Email: MDE-CACFP@Michigan.gov

Food Distribution

www.Michigan.gov/MDE-FDP

Email: MDE-FMFD@Michigan.gov

Fiscal and Administrative Services

www.Michigan.gov/MDE-FAST

Email: MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov

Procurement and Contracts

www.Michigan.gov/MDE-FoodServiceContracts

Email: MDE-FSMC-Vended@Michigan.gov

School Health and Safety

www.Michigan.gov/CSHSP

Email: MDESchoolHealthSafety@Michigan.gov

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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, audiotope, 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

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