

Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential  
Office of Higher Education

Request for Proposals  
Hunger-Free Campus Activities

During fiscal year 2025, funds were appropriated to MiLEAP for a Hunger-Free Campus Grant Pilot Program with two community colleges and two state universities. Building upon the success of the Hunger-Free Campus grant pilot program, MiLEAP Office of Higher Education received a one-time appropriation in fiscal year 2026 for competitive grants to support hunger-free campus activities at additional colleges and universities. The competitive grants for Hunger-Free Campus Activities in fiscal year 2026 will be short cycle grants of approximately six months in length, ending September 30, 2026.

The need for hunger-free campus activities/programming at Michigan institutions of higher education was further highlighted in [\*Barriers to Bridges: Strengthening Michigan Communities by Addressing College Student Basic Need\*](#), a report produced by MiLEAP Office of Higher Education, with support from The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs. The report spotlights 12 priority recommendations that would help the state, institutions of higher education and highly engaged partners to collectively create sustainable solutions to address college student basic needs insecurity and improve the experiences of students faced with these barriers. Data cited in the report suggests that many Michigan college students face basic needs barriers, including:

- 20% of Michigan undergraduates experienced low or very low food security in the past 30 days
- 7% of Michigan undergraduates were homeless in the previous 30 days. As many as 44% of Michigan college students are experiencing housing insecurity
- 38% receive Pell scholarships (federal scholarships for low-income students)

The purpose of the new Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant opportunity is to support public, Tribal and independent institutions of higher education in Michigan in implementing sustainable solutions to addressing student basic needs on campus, and specifically food insecurity of students. Ideally these strategies and solutions are in partnership with local and/or state organizations that address food insecurity.

Grant proposals should focus on hunger-free campus activities that enhance or expand current programming for students to address food insecurity:

- Establish a hunger task force that includes representatives from the student body and that meets at least 3 times per academic year to set at least 2 goals with action plans for the college/university.
- Inform students about, and assist in accessing, free food resources for students on campus; food resources in the community (e.g., food pantry, free meals); and enrollment opportunities in the state's supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

- Provide physical food pantry/pantries on campus or enable students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free arrangement. The institution of higher education may partner with a local food bank or food pantry to meet this requirement.
- Develop a student meal credit donation program or designate a certain amount of funds for free food vouchers that might otherwise be raised through such a program.
- Assess student food insecurity and use the results to develop a plan for a sustainable solution at the college/university.

#### Eligibility and Grant Awards:

Michigan public, Tribal and independent institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for the new Hunger-Free Campus Activities grant.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for up to \$100,000 to support Hunger-Free Campus Activities.

Hunger-Free Campus Activities grants are short cycle grants of approximately 6 months, with the grant term ending **September 30, 2026**. Final request for reimbursement from the grant must be submitted to MiLEAP no later than October 5, 2026. This is a firm deadline for the final request for reimbursement from the grant.

#### Eligible Expenses:

Eligible expenses for the Hunger-Free Campus Activities grant include:

- Equipment costs for food pantry (e.g., commercial freezer, commercial refrigerator, merchandiser refrigerator, shelving)
- Food pantry products/supplies
- Student free food/meal vouchers or gift cards
- Technology/system for students to request/apply for regular food assistance (e.g., campus food vouchers, weekly food pantry access)
- Technology/system for student meal credit donation program
- Honorarium to students participating in the college/university's hunger task force
- Outreach to students about food assistance opportunities at the college/university
- Qualitative and/or quantitative assessment of student food insecurity
- Incentives for student participants in assessment of student food insecurity
- Portion of staff member(s) time for grant activities

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals for the Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Clear demonstration of how the proposed hunger-free campus activities enhance or expand current services/programming to address food insecurity by students
2. Plan for sustainability of proposed hunger free-campus activities

3. Budget expenditures are directly related to proposed activities, and are allowable and reasonable
4. Reasonable timeline for accomplishing activities and spending requested funds
5. Evidence of partnerships/collaborations internally and/or externally to address student food insecurity at the college/university
6. Proposed activities/strategies could reasonably be expected to increase student retention and completion/graduation

#### Important Dates:

Grant Applications are due on **Friday, February 13, 2026 by 3 p.m. EST.**

Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant Applications must use the Application Document and be submitted **via email** to: [MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov](mailto:MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov)

We are anticipating an April 1, 2026 start date for the Hunger-Free Campus Activities grants, and firm end date of September 30, 2026.

#### Questions and Application Assistance:

For grant eligibility questions or technical assistance in applying for the grant, please contact [MiLEAP-Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov](mailto:MiLEAP-Sixtyby30-Grants@michigan.gov)

#### Reporting by Grantees:

Hunger-Free Campus Activities grant awardees will be required to submit a final report to MiLEAP Office of Higher Education no later than November 1, 2026 detailing how Hunger-Free Campus Activities grant funds were spent, grant activities implemented, impact of those grant activities and expenditures on student food access at the college/university, lessons learned from the grant activities, and planned next steps for sustainable solutions to student food insecurity at the college/university.

Financial Status Reports are required to be submitted each month during the grant term, for reimbursement of grant expenses that occurred during the prior month. Financial Status Reports/requests for reimbursement are due within 30 days of the end of the month. The only exception is the request for reimbursement for September, which will be due no later than October 5, 2026. Payments will be made by MiLEAP Office of Higher Education to the grantee on a reimbursement basis for actual agreement expenditures made during the period. Documentation of expenditures must be provided with the request for reimbursement.

#### Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant Application Overview:

**ALL APPLICATIONS FOR THE HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS ACTIVITIES GRANT MUST BE EMAILED TO: [MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov](mailto:MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov)**

Applications and any attachments should be submitted in PDF format. A W-9 is also required to be submitted with the grant application.

This Application Information document is being provided for your planning and drafting purposes only. A separate Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant Application document

will be provided on the MiLEAP Sixty by 30 Special Grant Opportunities webpage to use for the grant application submission.

The following information will be provided in the cover page to your grant application:

- Applicant Organization Name
- Organization EIN
- Organization SIGMA Vendor ID
- Applicant Organization Address
- Application Contact Person & Title
- Application Contact Person Direct Phone
- Applicant Contact Person Email Address
- Applicant Organization CEO Name & Contact Information
- Amount Requested for the Hunger-Free Campus Activities Grant
- A brief description of the Hunger-Free Campus Activities project/activities proposed for your institution of higher education, in 500 words or less. (This description may be used by MiLEAP in communications materials.)

#### Grant Application Questions:

1. Please describe the current services/programming that your college/university has in place to address food insecurity by students.
2. Please describe the hunger-free campus activities/strategies that you are proposing to use the grant funding for, and how these activities/strategies will be integrated with the current services/programming at the college/university to sustainably address food insecurity by students.
3. Please describe how the proposed activities/strategies will expand or enhance the current services/programming on campus to sustainably address food insecurity by students at the college/university.
4. Please describe how the expanded/enhanced services/programming to address food insecurity by students will contribute to increasing retention and completion/graduation at the college/university.
5. Please describe any internal and/or external collaborations/partnerships that will be incorporated as part of the sustainable solutions to address student food insecurity at the college/university.
6. Please describe the communication/outreach plan to students about the strategies/activities implemented with the grant to increase food access by students.
7. Please describe the timeline of proposed hunger-free campus activities and expenditures during the grant term (term end date September 30, 2026).

8. Proposed grant budget:

Category	Brief explanation/Narrative of the budget line item	Amount Requested
Food pantry equipment and materials		
Food pantry products and supplies		
Technology		
Student food/meal vouchers, gift cards		
Student honorariums, student incentives		
Outreach to students		
Data collection and analysis		
Personnel		
Other expenses (please specify):		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

9. Please provide the name, title, and contact information (email address and phone number) of individual(s) who will be responsible for implementation of the grant activities and ensuring they are satisfactorily completed and on time.

10. Please provide the name, title, and contact information (email address and phone number) for the individual(s) at the college/university that will be responsible for fiscal oversight of the grant, and submitting financial status reports (grant reimbursement requests) monthly.

11. Please attach a copy of the college/university **W-9** form

Email completed Hunger-Free Campus Grant Activities application and college/university W-9 by **Friday, February 13, 2026 at 3 p.m.** to [MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov](mailto:MiLEAP-OHE-GrantsApply@michigan.gov)

*Individuals with disabilities may contact the MiLEAP ADA Coordinator to request an alternative format to these materials. Please visit [www.Michigan.gov/ADA](http://www.Michigan.gov/ADA) for a list of state ADA Coordinators.*