



2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

10 CENTS
A MEAL
FOR MICHIGAN'S KIDS & FARMS



On the Cover

10 Cents a Meal is a celebration of local, Michigan-grown food for our state's children. Kalamazoo-based photographer, Sarah Rypma, has helped capture the program's essence through photos of 10 Cents a Meal grantees and their staff; community partners; and farmers and producers.

All photos appearing in this report are courtesy of Sarah Rypma.

Data Sources

*Michigan Department of Education, Grantee Purchasing Data
MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, Preliminary Evaluation of Survey Results*

The data presented in this report are based on information reported by 242 different grantees through electronic evaluation surveys (3) during the year and 230 grantees that shared purchasing information.

10 Cents a Meal Implementation Team



10 Cents a Meal is implemented by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) with support from the following partners:



Center for
Regional Food Systems



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Photo at left: Pears growing at Keep Growing Detroit Farm in Detroit, Michigan.

INTRODUCTION

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms provides schools, early care and education sites, and other organizations participating in USDA Child Nutrition programs with grant funds to pay for Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans to strengthen the local food supply chain and enrich nutrition and educational experiences for children in Michigan.

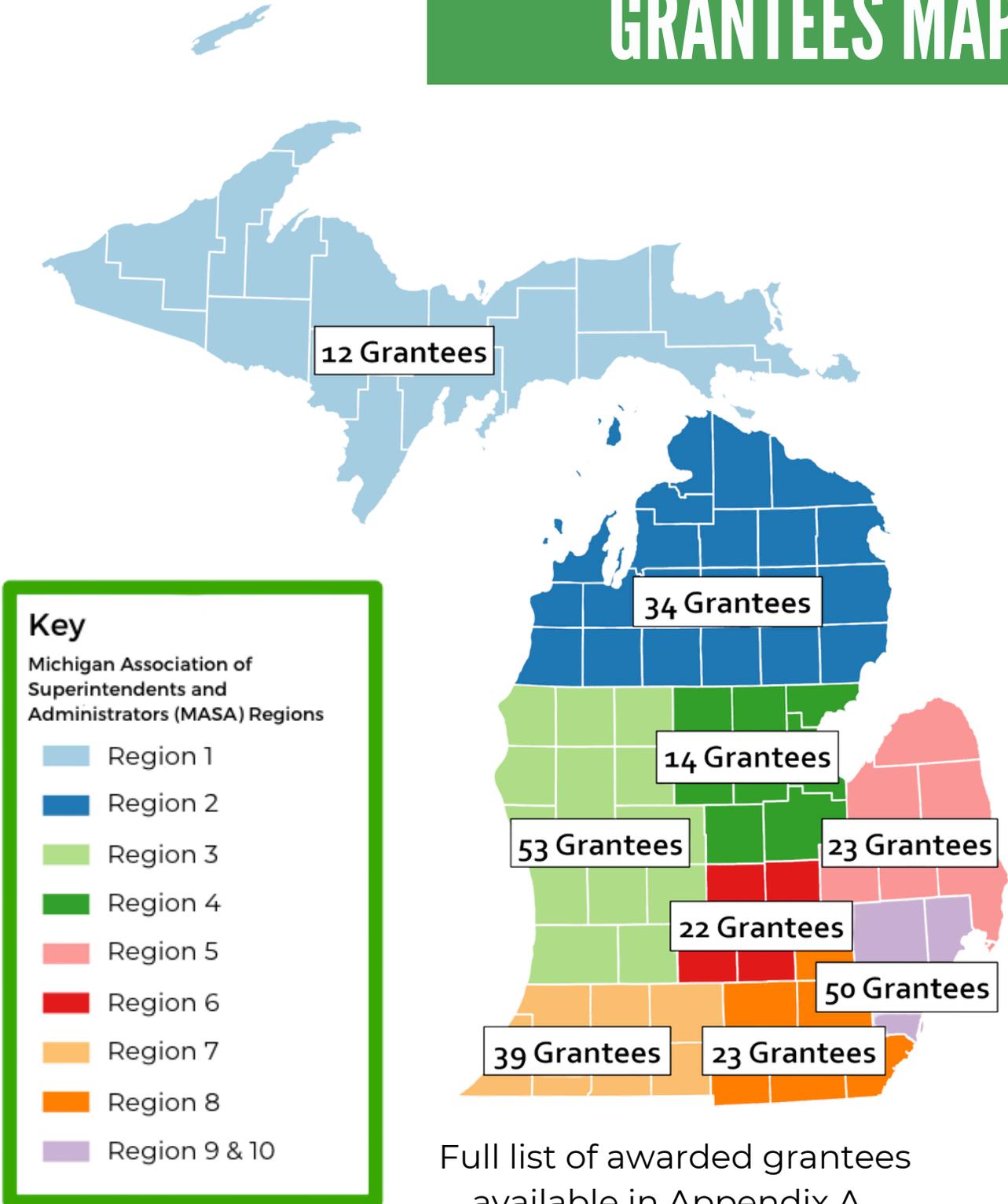
Program Goals

- Improve daily nutrition and eating habits for children through local purchasing.
- Invest in Michigan agriculture and related local food business economy.
- Build and expand Farm to School Partnerships— including teachers, parents, vendors, and local growers.
- Provide education and marketing, including meal promotion, nutrition and agriculture education, and promotion to families and communities.

Program Year Overview

- In the 2023-2024 program, 269 school districts, early care and education sites (ECEs), and other childcare sponsors were awarded over \$9.1 million in funding.
- Throughout the year, 242 different grantees shared information through electronic evaluation surveys and 230 grantees shared purchasing information.
- Grantees were comprised of 249 schools and districts, 19 childcare sites, and one community feeding site across the state.
 - Additionally, 70 childcare centers and family day care home providers participated in a pilot program through 10 Cents a Meal.
- Collectively, grantees served over 590,000 children in 66 of Michigan's 83 counties.
- Similar to previous years, grantees reported differing levels of experience purchasing local foods for food programs: 24% indicated that they had 10 years or more of experience (58 out of 251 grantees) while 19% indicated that they were newer to purchasing local foods (48 grantees), with one year or less of experience before participating in 10 Cents a Meal.

10 CENTS A MEAL GRANTEES MAP



Full list of awarded grantees available in Appendix A.

IMPACTS FOR CHILDREN AND FOOD PROGRAMS

Expanding Tastes

- The majority of grantees (81%) reported that 10 Cents a Meal grants allowed them to try new products in their food program that they would not have otherwise tried.
- Grantees reported trying for the first time 37 types of vegetables and 17 types of fruits.
- The top ten new Michigan-grown foods reported by food program managers in evaluation surveys (in order) were apples, asparagus, blueberries, radishes, plums, carrots, cucumbers, peaches, cherries, and summer squash.
- Eighteen grantees reported purchasing Michigan-grown dry beans for the first time— the highest number reported in 10 Cents a Meal history.
- 10 Cents a Meal’s role in increasing access to healthy Michigan-grown foods is particularly important as evaluation findings show the program is reaching and serving a wide range of children who participate in grantee food programs.

Increasing Food Access and Consumption

Most grantees agreed that their food program or food service operation was positively impacted through participating in the program. Food program managers (FPMs) reported that 10 Cents a Meal:

- allowed them to offer more local fruits to students and children (86%),
- increased fruit consumption among students and children (81%),
- allowed them to offer more local vegetables (79%), and
- increased vegetable consumption among students and children (70%).

Thanks to 10 Cents a Meal grants, Michigan kids tried paw paws, black radishes, pea shoots, saskatoon berries, sunchokes, shishito peppers, and more during the 2023-2024 program year.

Early Care and Education Settings

- Nineteen grantees (about 7% of all grantees) were childcare sites.
- Of those, 10 childcare site grantees reported that they served new Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, or dry beans for the first time. These included 20 new types of vegetables, 10 types of fruits, and one variety of dry beans.
- The top five types of activities (in order) that childcare sites conducted to support local food purchasing were promotional posters, taste testing, on-site garden activities, social media, and nutrition education in the classroom.
- Evaluation findings show that participating childcare grantees continue to be successful in reaching a variety of outcomes through the program, such as purchasing and serving a wide variety of Michigan-grown foods and conducting a range of different farm to early care and education activities.



Photo at left: A child helps themselves to bowls of mixed berries, and fresh asparagus and green beans at Bright Light Early Care and Education in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Program Training

- Grantees were asked about their preferred training formats and together they reported:
 - Virtual, live (147 grantees),
 - Online self-paced training (130 grantees),
 - In-person (111 grantees), and
 - Virtual, pre-recorded (110 grantees).
- Based on grantee feedback, 10 Cents a Meal program administrators offered five in-person trainings, one virtual training, virtual office hours by request, and one self-paced online training to help grantees complete the program application and submit purchase information.
- Nearly three-quarters of grantees (188 out of 255 responding grantees) provided suggestions for training topics. The top reported topics (in order) included support with procurement/vendor relationships (32% of responses), recipes/culinary instruction (24%), seasonality/availability of local foods (12%), purchase submission (10%), and marketing (8%).

Outcomes for Food Programs

Grantees reported that the top five outcomes (in order) that 10 Cents a Meal helped food program operations achieve were:

- the variety of produce served in the food service program has increased (151 grantees),
- ability to plan local produce and dry bean purchasing with greater certainty (97 grantees),
- purchasing power was enhanced (89 grantees),
- food vendors and farmers are more willing to supply our food service program (83 grantees), and
- food purchasing budget increased (82 grantees).



“I like to look at my menu seasonally— fall, winter, spring. I then incorporate seasonal menu items into our menu and utilize recipes, past menus, and speak with our farmers to plan ahead.”



—Public school district grantee

Engaging Students, Children, and Community

Ninety-three grantees reported that taste tests were conducted during the grant year (40% of responding grantees). Altogether, they reported at least 49 different Michigan-grown foods tried through taste tests. The top five Michigan-grown foods that were taste tested (in order) were apples, cucumbers, blueberries, tomatoes, and strawberries. Some of the foods that grantees reported serving through taste testing activities included black bean and corn salsa, kale and butternut squash salad, assorted vegetable dip, fruit smoothies, and apple cobbler.

The top five activities to support local foods served through 10 Cents a Meal as reported by grantees were:

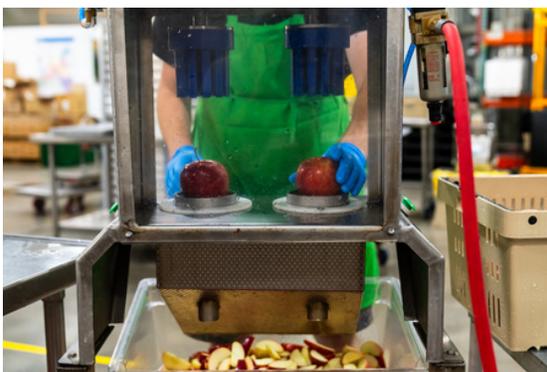
- Promotional posters (16% of total activities reported),
- Taste testing (15%),
- Nutrition education in the cafeteria (10%),
- Social media (9%), and
- Decorations (9%).



Photo above: Fresh lettuce ready to be harvested at Partridge Creek Farm in Ishpeming, Michigan.

Market Opportunities

- One hundred grantees (of 255 responding grantees) reported at least once throughout the year that there were Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, or dry beans they wanted to use but have not been able to find or buy.
- The top ten Michigan-grown foods of interest among food program managers (in order) were strawberries, blueberries, cherries, peaches, lettuce, dry beans, asparagus, tomatoes, pears, and cucumbers.
- There are a variety of foods that grantees continue to report as wanting to serve but they could not find or buy. These findings could help identify areas for improvement so that grantees can be better supported to purchase more of their desired foods.



Photos above: Michigan apples being sliced and packaged at ValleyHUB, Kalamazoo Valley Community College's food hub in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Farm Supply Chain Impacts

- Evaluation findings show that FPMs are reporting purchases from a wide range of farmers and food suppliers across the state.
- **Over half of grantees** reported that participation in 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to **make connections with new farmers or food suppliers (59%)**.
- **Ninety-four grantees** reported that participation in 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to **improve existing relationships with farmers or local food suppliers (41%)**.
- **Six out of ten childcare center grantees** reported that 10 Cents a Meal allowed them to **connect with new farmers or local food suppliers**, and it allowed them to **improve existing relationships**.
- In the fall of 2024, a series of discussions took place with the 10 Cents a Meal team and **eight individuals representing small farms and businesses** around the state. Some of the top themes from the discussions included:
 - **Farmers need funds to scale up their businesses to better serve 10 Cents a Meal grantees.**
 - **It takes a significant time to build relationships and connect to 10 Cents a Meal grantees.**
 - **There are regional influences on the infrastructure needs of farmers.**
 - **There is a desire for more collaboration with farmers, including across sectors.**

“We hear all the time from grantees, ‘I need help connecting with farmers, I don’t know how to start relationships, I don’t know what it’s going to be like because I’m so used to working with [broadline distributor].’ This is a whole new world for them, they don’t even know how to get started.”

—Urban Farmer

APPENDIX A: 10 CENTS A MEAL GRANTEES

Full list of awarded grantees based on the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA) regions

REGION 1

Bark River-Harris School District
Brimley Area Schools
Chassell Township School District
Escanaba Area Public Schools
GOCAA Head Start
Hancock Public Schools
Houghton-Portage Township School District
Negaunee Public Schools
Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw
Rudyard Area Schools
Superior Central School District
West Iron County Public Schools

REGION 2

Alcona Community Schools
Alpena Public Schools
Angel Care Child Care
Bear Lake Schools
Benzie County Central Schools
Boyer Falls Public School District
Central Lake Public Schools
Crawford AuSable Schools
East Jordan Public Schools
Elk Rapids Schools
Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools
Glen Lake Community Schools
Harbor Springs School District
Houghton Lake Community Schools
Kaleva Norman Dickson School District
Kalkaska Public Schools
Kingsley Area Schools
Leelanau Children's Center
Leland Public School District
Mancelona Public Schools
Manistee Area Public Schools
Northport Public School District
Onkama Consolidated Schools
Pellston Public Schools
Public Schools of Petoskey
Rogers City Area Schools
Roscommon Area Public Schools
St. Francis High School
St. Mary School
Suttons Bay Public Schools
Traverse City Area Public Schools
Vanderbilt Area Schools
West Branch-Rose City Area Schools
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools



REGION 3

Allegan Public Schools
Baxter Community Center Inc
Clubhouse Childcare Services LLC
Comstock Park Public Schools
Coopersville Area Public School District
Crossroads Charter Academy
Delton Kellogg Schools
Fremont Public School District
Fruitport Community Schools
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools
Godwin Heights Public Schools
Grand Rapids Metropolitan YMCA
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Greenville Public Schools
Hart Public School District
Hesperia Community Schools
Holland City School District
Holton Public Schools
Hopkins Public Schools
Ionia Public Schools
Jenison Public Schools
Kenowa Hills Public Schools
Kent City Community Schools
Kent County Juvenile Detention
Lakewood Public Schools
Lowell Area Schools
Ludington Area School District
Mason County Eastern Schools
Mona Shores Public School District
Montague Area Public Schools
Muskegon Heights Public School
Academy System
New Branches Charter Academy
Newaygo Public School District
North Muskegon Public Schools
Orchard View Schools
Otsego Public Schools

Plainwell Community Schools
Public Schools of the City of
Muskegon
Ravenna Public Schools
Reeths-Puffer Schools
Saranac Community Schools
Saugatuck Public Schools
Shelby Public Schools
Sparta Area Schools
Spring Lake Public Schools
Thornapple Kellogg School District
Walker Child Care
Wedgwood Christian Services
West Ottawa Public School District
White Cloud Public Schools
Whitehall District Schools
Zeeland Public Schools



REGION 4

Alma Public Schools
Bay City Academy
Beaverton Schools
Bullock Creek School District
Essexville-Hampton Public Schools
Harrison Community Schools
Hemlock Public School District
Merrill Community Schools
Midland Public Schools
Pinconning Area Schools
Renaissance Public School Academy
School District of the City of Saginaw
Standish-Sterling Community Schools
Swan Valley School District



REGION 5

Anchor Bay School District
Atherton Community Schools
Bendle Public Schools
Carsonville-Port Sanilac School District
Fenton Area Public Schools
Flint Cultural Center Academy
Genesee School District
Grand Blanc Academy
Kingston Community School District
Lake Fenton Community Schools
Lapeer Community Schools
Mayville Community School District
Michigan School for the Deaf
Millington Community Schools
Montrose Community Schools
Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools
Reese Public Schools
Richfield Public School Academy
School District of the City of Flint
St. Clair County RESA
Swartz Creek Community Schools
Vassar Public Schools
Whaley Children's Center

REGION 6

Association for Child Development
Bellevue Community Schools
Charlotte Public Schools
Cole Academy
Corunna Public Schools
East Lansing School District
Eaton Rapids Public Schools
Fowler Public Schools
Lansing Catholic High School
Lansing Public School District
Leslie Public Schools
Maple Valley Schools

Mason Public Schools (Ingham)
Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services
Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
Okemos Public Schools
Owosso Public Schools
Pewamo-Westphalia Community
Schools
Pottersville Public Schools
St. Johns Public Schools
Stockbridge Community Schools
Waverly Community Schools

REGION 7

Bangor Public Schools (Van Buren)
Battle Creek Public Schools
Bloomington Public School District
Bright Light Early Care & Education
Calhoun County Juvenile Home
Cassopolis Public Schools
Centreville Public Schools
Coldwater Community Schools
Coloma Community Schools
Comstock Public Schools
Constantine Public School District
Countryside Academy
Covert Public Schools
Decatur Public Schools
Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Gull Lake Community Schools
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kids Time Inc
Learning Zone Preschool and Childcare
and GSRP
Mar Lee School District
Marcellus Community Schools
Mattawan Consolidated School
Mendon Community School District
New Buffalo Area Schools
Niles Community Schools
Pansophia Academy
Parchment School District
Paw Paw Public School District
Schoolcraft Community Schools
South Haven Public Schools
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School
St. Mary Assumption School
Three Rivers Community Schools
Tri County Council for Child Devel
Union City Community Schools
Vicksburg Community Schools
Watervliet School District
Young Child Associates
YWCA Children's Center

REGION 8

Airport Community Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Bedford Public Schools
Chelsea School District
Concord Community Schools
Dexter Community School District
Dundee Community Schools
Hanover-Horton School District
Hillsdale Community Schools
Jackson Public Schools
Jefferson Schools (Monroe)
Lincoln Consolidated School District
Manchester Community Schools
Mason Consolidated Schools (Monroe)
Michigan Center School District
Milan Area Schools
Napoleon Community Schools
Reading Community Schools
Saline Area Schools
Summerfield Schools
Washtenaw ISD
Whitmore Lake Public School District
Ypsilanti Community Schools



REGIONS 9 AND 10

A & W Day Care Center
Academy of Warren
American International Academy
American Montessori Academy
Armada Area Schools
Bloomfield Hills Schools
Caniff Liberty Academy
Center Line Public Schools
Christ Child House
Clarenceville School District
Detroit Public Schools Community District
Farmington Public School District
Ferndale Public Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools
George Washington Carver Academy
Huron Academy
Huron School District
Huron Valley Schools
Keys Grace Academy
Kristy's Early Childhood
Lamphere Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
Little Jungle Network
Madison District Public Schools
Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Schools
Micah Nevah Non Profit Organization
Mount Clemens Community School District
New Dawn Academy of Warren
Oakland International Academy
Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
Old Redford Academy

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1
Richmond Community Schools
Romulus Community Schools
School District of the City of Hazel Park
School District of the City of Lincoln Park
School District of the City of Wyandotte
Southfield Public School District
Southgate Community School District
Taylor School District
The Dearborn Academy
The School District of the City of Harper Woods
Trenton Public Schools
Trinity Lutheran School
Utica Community Schools
Van Buren Public Schools
Warren Consolidated Schools
Wayne-Westland Community School District
YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

