



News: 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms is a grant opportunity now available to sponsors of early childhood centers that are successfully participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

What it is: 10 Cents a Meal is a Michigan Department of Education program that provides matching fund grants up to 10 Cents a Meal to purchase Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. It formerly was available only to K-12 schools successfully participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). (The grant used to be called 10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms.)

Funding potential for you: Annual matching grant funds are available to purchase Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. NOTE: Only CACFP sponsors of early childhood centers are able to apply for the competitive grants (along with eligible K-12 schools), but Sponsors may apply on behalf of any number of their sites based upon interest.

How this program can support your efforts: Farm to Early Childhood Education (ECE) helps develop capabilities to meet several goals in the Early Childhood Standards of Quality approved by the Michigan State Board of Education for infants, toddlers, and prekindergarten including:

- Infants and toddlers experience environments where their physical health is promoted;
- Children become aware of and begin to develop nutritional habits that contribute to health;
- Children begin to have knowledge about and make age-appropriate healthy choices in daily life.

How the program works: This is a matching grant. Center grantees must spend twice their awarded grant amount on Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. Applicants have the option of requesting less than a 100% grant. Starting slow is fine! Early childhood involvement is for Centers only due to federal regulations. Grantees must provide documentation of their local food purchases to MDE and respond to periodic online surveys. If you would like to get a sense of how applicants are scored, look at the application guide at www.tencentsmichigan.org under the **Tools for Schools** tab.

Engaging kids in local food: The Michigan legislature wants to see that children who are served Michigan-grown foods through this program benefit from activities that get them engaged in eating it! Activities could include gardens, fun taste-testing activities, maybe even a visit from a farmer! You can find ideas at www.canr.msu.edu/michigan-farm-to-ece/index and under the **Tools for Schools** tab at www.tencentsmichigan.org.

Results for kids: Last year grant-winning school districts tried 67 new fruits, vegetables, and dry beans that they hadn't served before. They also discovered local farms can provide more variety, such as differently flavored apple varieties and multi-colored carrots that children love. Increasing locally grown products in Michigan early care and education settings similarly supports learning opportunities as well as life-long health and wellness for children, families, and caregivers.

More information: www.tencentsmichigan.org