



10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids & Farms is sparking healthy choices and a vibrant economy by providing schools and early child care centers with match incentive funding to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables and legumes.

**Status in Michigan:** The Michigan legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer increased funding from \$575,000 to \$2 million for 10 Cents a Meal in the 2021 budget and expanded it so that in its 5th year it is available to schools statewide for the first time, instead of pilot regions. In addition, the program was expanded to include early childhood centers as also eligible for the grant funding. Advocates celebrated the state's strong affirmation for investing in healthy, locally grown food for children in schools and early childhood centers, even in the face of a tight state budget. More than 600 individuals and 200 organizations representing every county in Michigan had urged this expansion, saying that the COVID-19 health and economic crisis showed its importance now more than ever.

*Ways to get engaged:*

**Learn more:** Find lots of information at [tencentsmichigan.org](https://tencentsmichigan.org), including [legislative reports](#), [success stories](#), information on [early childhood center](#) eligibility and more. You can also sign up for the 10 Cents a Meal [e-newsletter](#).

**Sign on as a supporter:** [Add your name](#) to the list of people and organizations that embrace investing in local food for kids in schools and early childhood centers as a positive part of Michigan's identity. If you want, you can also be alerted to opportunities for advocacy.

**Spread the word:** Raise awareness about this innovative program with health and economy advocates, school boards, teachers, PTAs, food service staff, state legislators, and other leaders. You'll find hand-outs at [Tools for Communities](#) at the [tencentsmichigan.org](https://tencentsmichigan.org) web site.

**Help schools and early childhood centers seize the opportunity:** You can help schools and early childhood centers understand how to be strong applicants and grantees. A good start is the Grant Application Guide at the [Tools for Schools](#) tab of [tencentsmichigan.org](https://tencentsmichigan.org).

**Support schools in success:** Successful grantees engage children so they are excited about trying new foods. Examples include taste tests in the cafeteria or classroom and fun facts about food for the eyes or brain. Food service staff and educators alike would welcome your help. More ideas are at the Build Your Farm to School Program page of [Tools for Schools](#).

**Get social:** Like, follow, and share the 10 Cents a Meal [Facebook](#) page.