

Questions for Michigan

1. @Cheyenne Liberti, Michigan Dept of Education (she/her) Wondering if the School Based ECEs are administering the programs under NSLP or CACFP?

Answered in chat by Cheyenne: ... It's a mix of both 😊 The numbers that I shared on the slide were all ECEs that participated through CACFP

2. @Cheyenne Liberti, Michigan Dept of Education (she/her) Is your program competitive?

Answered in Chat by Cheyenne: ...Yes, our program is competitive. We used the following rubric to assess applications for the 2024-2025 program year: [Application Rubric](#)

Resources Shared:

10 Cents a Meal Website: <https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/>

History of the 10 Cents a Meal Program: <https://groundworkcenter.org/milestones-diane-conners-and-a-remarkable-journey-for-childrens-health/>

2024-2025 10 Cents a Meal Grantee Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edd7db023e224b42b904e2dc034c1a69>

Michigan State School Aid Act Section 31(j):

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-388-1631j>

Garden and Donated Produce Pricing Guide: [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/Garden-and-Donated-Produce-Pricing-Guide_Updated-June-](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/Garden-and-Donated-Produce-Pricing-Guide_Updated-June-2024.pdf?rev=c956db7cc8ca4016b2486fda59b49a1a&hash=9D625FA4D3033CCADC8C8CF46BE7E9AC)

[2024.pdf?rev=c956db7cc8ca4016b2486fda59b49a1a&hash=9D625FA4D3033CCADC8C8CF46BE7E9AC](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/Garden-and-Donated-Produce-Pricing-Guide_Updated-June-2024.pdf?rev=c956db7cc8ca4016b2486fda59b49a1a&hash=9D625FA4D3033CCADC8C8CF46BE7E9AC)

[2024.pdf?rev=c956db7cc8ca4016b2486fda59b49a1a&hash=9D625FA4D3033CCADC8C8CF46BE7E9AC](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ohns/10-Cents-a-Meal/Garden-and-Donated-Produce-Pricing-Guide_Updated-June-2024.pdf?rev=c956db7cc8ca4016b2486fda59b49a1a&hash=9D625FA4D3033CCADC8C8CF46BE7E9AC)

Michigan CSA Network: <https://www.michigancsanetwork.org/find-a-csa>

Michigan Farm to ECE Network Strategic Plan: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-farm-to-ece-network-strategic-plan-2023-2028>

Questions for Washington

1. @Annette- Did you say most of your funding is federal? If so, what's the source?
Thanks!

Answered by Annette in chat: ...the original allocation came from federal coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds. Funding is ongoing and transitioning to state general funds.

2. @Annette - What system does Washington use for the reimbursement system or is it submission of those data points in a spreadsheet? (Is there a software utilized?)

Answered by Annette verbally: Superintendent of public instruction first year. 2nd year switched to WizeHive.

Answered by Annette in the chat: ...we provide grantees with an Excel spreadsheet template to fill out with required data. To submit a claim, they then upload the spreadsheet in their grant portal. We then review and approve purchases for payment.

Questions for Iowa

1. @Krista - did this project period pose a challenge to any sites that might be closed in the summer?

Answered by Krista in chat: Great question! There were not very many awardees that were off for the summer. We supported those few in getting their food in April/May and August/September. We also reflected that the lower numbers of those applying was likely because we shared that timeline at the introductory webinar. Another lesson learned!

2. Would you be willing to share the names of the food hubs you worked with?

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/iowa-food-hub-directory>

Any additional questions can be directed to iowaf2sec@gmail.com or kristasm@iastate.edu.

Questions for New Mexico

1. NM: curious why beef is allowed but not poultry?

Answered by Laura in the chat....This decision was made by the NM Farmer's Marketing Association which administers NM's Approved Supplier Program and maintains our Allowable Products Lists; I can refer you to Alena Paisano, the Approved Supplier Director with New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association for more information:
alena@farmersmarketsnm.org

2. NM Resources:

<https://newmexicogrown.org/>

<https://newmexicogrown.org/farm-to-institution/>

NM Grown Approved Supplier Program, NM Farmer's Marketing Association: [NM Grown Approved Supplier Program - New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association](#)

General Questions

1. For any of the presenters- did you collect data on the food producers involved with the projects? Metrics such as size of operation (small or mid-sized vs. large), historically underserved farmers, or new/beginning farmers, etc.?

Michigan - Cheyenne Liberti (Dec 10, 2024, 1:36 PM)

For the grant program, we collect data on the county where suppliers are located and what types of suppliers worked with grantees (food hubs, farmers, grocery stores, etc.)

Washington - Annette Slonim (Dec 10, 2024, 1:36 PM)

We include yes/no questions in a final report to ask grantees if they purchase from different types/groups of producers but do not collect producer-level data. We do track county and market channel (direct from farm, food hub, distributor, etc.) Including contact information, business size, underserved, etc.

Washington - Annette Slonim (Dec 10, 2024, 1:46 PM)

In Washington, there is an online wholesale finder for local producers (not exhaustive but free to list). Optional filters include identity indicators for buyers looking for diverse producers: <https://eatlocalfirst.org/wa-food-farm-finder/wholesale/>

Iowa (Dec 10, 2024, 1:47 PM)

In Iowa, we require producers to register to participate in LFPA and LFS. We collect demographic and licensing information at that time.

For USDA AMS Talk

How does it work for states that have CACFP and NSLP in two different agencies?

State needs to determine which agency is best suited to handle the program.

What do you define as Historically underserved and small business?

Those definitions are in the Notice of Funding Opportunity

If a state agency would like to change the way they are implementing LFS from the first round, is there a mechanism for them to do so if they are not submitting a new proposal?

Current participants will need to do a project summary. Will have an opportunity to include outcome indicators and future plans, as well as budget and timeline. Due April 30th.

Will the funding allocations per state remain the same?

Based on NSLP and CACFP participation. Two separate allocations for schools and ECE. Also in Notice of Funding on grants.gov

You mentioned April 30th, and I saw in the document that the performance period will be 3 years. Does that clock start on April 30th 2025?

Clock starts soon, when the agreement is set up. We intend to have them all in place for existing states and tribes by Jan 15.

So if we are participants in the LFS Cooperative Agreements (i.e. State Board of Education as the State agency), our agreements will essentially "rollover" to School Year 2026? What do we need to expect as part of an RFA for State agencies? How will funding allocations work?

The new agreements will be separate from current LFS agreements. NOFA is the RFA for this program.

Will there be an opportunity to alter the type of LFS plan from last round? And/or switch the administering agency?

Yes, see previous answer. If you know there's an interest in switching agencies, notify USDA as soon as possible. Even if you're just discussing the idea.

Does this mean that food delivery costs are considered a procurement cost and could also be reimbursed?

No changes from the original round of funding. Still Commodity Credit Corporation funding. Any costs for transportation and storage are part of final procurement costs.

When will state agencies be notified of their award amount in the process?

Look at the NOFA now, dollar amounts are there.

What are the timeframes for the funds to be utilized.

Period of performance is 3 years. For those that still have outstanding LFS funds, those need to be used before we give new funding. But they could use CACFP funds if they have outstanding LFS remaining.

Can the program be executed by two different agencies (one agency for NSLP and one agency overseeing CACFP) for LFS?

No. States must choose one agency to be awarded the cooperative agreement, but they can collaborate with other agencies and organizations to carry them out. Many states are working with agencies that they'd never worked with before, and it's been a success story with the new working relationships within states.

Q1: what the expected period of performance is . Q2: do they have ideas if/what they will ask us to report on?

Similar to first round of LFS. Value of food purchased from local producers. Value of food purchased from historically underserved and small businesses.

Do states need to wait until our updated LFS plans/new LFCC plans are approved by USDA before we can start soliciting applications for a competitive grant program? If so, what will be the estimated timeline for USDA review of state plans?

We're going to review them ASAP. For those with existing agreements, we're going to go ahead and obligate the funds. New states will be reviewed on a rolling basis as quickly as we can. New states should wait until the agreement is in place before soliciting for vendors, etc.

CACFP- Is this only for Childcare excluding Adult daycare and At-risk?

Only for ECE. (UPDATE CONFIRM THIS WITH RFA)

Should States reach out the two of you if they are thinking about switching administering agencies? Or is there another point of contact?

Yes, reach out to Elizabeth or Sarah. sarah.fong@usda.gov CC the general email inbox: MRP.AMS.LFS@usda.gov
Managed by Ana and Nikolai, reach out to them if you've been working with them.

Are states determining the distribution of funds in the award table between NSLP and CACFP or is AMS determining this breakdown?

In the NOFA document, those are allocated separately.

Can you clarify if the proposal due date for states already participating is in January or April?
Thanks!

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Elizabeth- can you repeat what is going to happen by January 15 2025?

We are going to try to get agreements in place for those with existing LFS agreements. Putting agreements together and obligating funds immediately. States are already in EZ Fed system, have completed documentation, etc.

So can there be a sub award from the lead agency to another agency?

Yes. This should be outlined in your project summary.

How secure is this funding? Is there a possibility it will not be funded in the new term?

Unknown.

Will those agreements, 1/15/25, include the funds for childcare?

Yes.

Will there be a directory on USDA's site on where these funds went and who the Point of contact is for these funds?

(ran out of time before answered)

Allison Bell to Everyone (Dec 10, 2024, 2:31 PM)

Elizabeth and Sarah - will AMS be hosting another informational call?

(ran out of time before answered)

NOFA: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/LFS25_NOFO.pdf