

## Michigan Overview:

### *K-12 local, fresh food guiding policy, key institutions, programming and support networks*

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## Government

### Michigan Healthy Food Financing Campaign

The Michigan Healthy Food Financing Campaign, led by the American Heart Association in partnership with Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan and Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF) partners, is an effort to support healthy food choices by expanding healthy food access for all residents in Michigan communities. The campaign is an innovative partnership made up of retailers, health advocates, policymakers and finance leaders across Michigan with the goal of securing a state investment in the MGFF. Funding will support food production, distribution, processing, and retail projects that expand the availability of healthy food offerings in places where access to healthy food is currently limited.

### Michigan Good Food Charter

Beginning in late 2009, three organizations - the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, the Food Bank Council of Michigan, and the Michigan Food Policy Council - came together to coordinate the process of developing specific goals for Michigan's food system that promote equity, sustainability and a thriving economy across the state. Five work groups formed to identify priorities in different arenas of the food systems, and these groups presented initial recommendations at a statewide summit, held at the Lansing Center on February 25, 2010. Feedback was gathered through the summit and comments solicited in the months that followed, and all of the efforts of the work groups and the input gathered from people across the state culminated in the release of the Michigan Good Food Charter in June 2010. The Charter envisions a thriving economy, equity, and sustainability for all of Michigan and its people through a food system rooted in local communities and centered on good food. By 2020, the following goals are listed to be met or succeeded:

1. Michigan institutions will source 20 percent of their food products from Michigan growers, producers and processors.
2. Michigan farmers will profitably supply 20 percent of all Michigan institutional, retailer and consumer food purchases and be able to pay fair wages to their workers.
3. Michigan will generate new agri-food businesses at a rate that enables 20 percent of food purchased in Michigan to come from Michigan.
4. Eighty percent of Michigan residents (twice the 2010 level) will have easy access to affordable, fresh, healthy food, 20 percent of which is from Michigan sources.
5. Michigan Nutrition Standards will be met by 100 percent of school meals and 75 percent of schools selling food outside school meal programs.
6. Michigan schools will incorporate food and agriculture into the pre-K through 12th grade curriculum for all Michigan students and youth will have access to food and agriculture entrepreneurial opportunities.

### Michigan Good Food Fund

In 2015, the Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF)— a statewide public-private healthy food financing program— was launched to increase access to healthy food, spur economic development and create jobs. Managed by Capital Impact Partners (CIP), a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that has been overseeing the California FreshWorks fund since 2011, MGFF will expand access to healthy food for Michigan residents in underserved areas by providing loans and business assistance to support projects across the state's food value chain, including production, processing, aggregation, distribution and retail projects.

### Michigan Local Food Council Network

The Michigan Local Food Council Network brings together food councils to build their individual and collective capacities to work on food and food policy issues, operate effectively, and engage their communities, through peer-to-peer learning.

## [Food Innovation Districts](#)

Food Innovation Districts (FIDs) are a land use concept based on the economic benefits of business clusters, which arise when related businesses locate in close proximity to each other. FIDs often include services such as markets, food business incubators, and facilities for common storage, packing, and distribution needs. By encouraging business collaboration, they provide important opportunities for product aggregation, information sharing, and partnering on events and market promotion. These districts also provide fertile ground for regional food hubs to grow, and for related food and farm ventures and market channels to emerge.

## *Michigan State University*

### [Food & Community Connections](#)

Food & Community Connections is a national outreach initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (Michigan) to strategically cultivate enabling environments and infrastructures for the development of equitable good food systems and healthy communities, with efforts focused on the following goals: Fostering the paradigm shift involved in successfully financing a new generation of good food production; Building the capacity of local governments to support the development of equitable good food systems; Building the capacity of early child care and education programs to expand good food access and awareness for vulnerable children and their families; Promoting internal and external connections linking and enhancing the work of the Foundation's Food & Community grantees. As part of its nationally-focused [Food & Community Connections](#) project, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems leads outreach and research to build capacity for local government engagement in food system development.

### [Michigan State University Extension Community Food Systems](#)

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses. Through this, MSU supports the development of community food systems in Michigan by providing resources and programs to develop local food policy councils, farm-to-institutional purchasing, food hubs and farmers markets. Farmers, consumers and communities partner to create a local, self-reliant food economy that improves access to all community members to an adequate, affordable nutritious diet.

### [Michigan FoodCorps](#)

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who connect kids to real food and help them grow up healthy. Hosted in Michigan by the MSU Community Food Systems and serving alongside educators and community leaders, FoodCorps members partner with schools to put in place a three-ingredient recipe for healthy kids, creating a nourishing environment for all students. Service members provide: 1) Knowledge: food and nutrition education that gives kids the information they need to make smart choices; 2) Engagement: hands-on activities like gardening and cooking that foster skills and pride around healthy food, and; 3) Access: lunch trays filled with nutritious meals from local farms.

### [Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems](#)

The Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) is part of the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Its mission is to engage the people of Michigan, the United States and the world in applied research, education and outreach to develop regionally integrated, sustainable food systems. Its vision is a thriving economy, equity and sustainability for Michigan, the country and the planet through food systems rooted in local regions and centered on food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable. Seven defined goals include:

1. Partner across Michigan to advance the goals of the Michigan Good Food Charter.
2. Educate new generations to lead regional food systems research and practice.
3. Cultivate and support communities of practice around emerging regional food systems issues and opportunities.
4. Increase the visibility of and access to MSU resources that support regional good food systems.
5. Expand the resource base for regional food systems applied research, education and outreach.
6. Develop farmers and farms for regional food systems

7. Expand and coordinate engagement of MSU faculty and staff in interdisciplinary regional food systems applied research, education, and outreach.

### [MI Farm to Institution Network](#)

The MI Farm to Institution Network is a space for learning, sharing and working together to get more local food to institutions. They aim to meet the MI Good Food Charter goal of 20% Michigan food to institutions by 2020 by helping: institutions such as hospitals, early childhood programs, schools and colleges find, buy and use MI foods; farmers and food suppliers offer the local food institutions want in the ways they need, and; consumers at institutions identify, value and enjoy local foods. (Hubbed at MSU)

### [MI Food Hub Learning & Innovation Network](#)

Food hubs are centrally located facilities with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally food products (USDA-AMS working definition). The Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network is led by CRFS in collaboration with Morse Marketing Connections, LLC, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The network facilitates: increased learning, innovation, and profitability for participating food hubs; increased access to food hub financial and technical assistance, research, and education; increased business-to-business collaboration across food hubs.

### [Michigan Farm to School](#)

Farm to School centers around efforts to serve local foods in school and early childcare and education food programs but applies to a variety of initiatives in Michigan, including school garden programs, fundraisers using local agricultural products, farmer visits to school classrooms and cafeterias and field trips to nearby farms. Michigan Farm to School is part of the National Farm to School Network and is a founding partner in the Michigan Junior Chef Competition. (Hubbed at MSU)

[HoopHouses for Health](#): Michigan Farm to School is now teaming up with the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) and the MSU Horticulture Department on Hoophouses for Health. This program is designed to help Michigan children and families have better access to good food while supporting Michigan farmers and increasing season extension food production. This project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

## *Supporting Affiliates*

### [The Conservation Fund](#)

With a \$400,000 grant from the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#), the Conservation Fund helps minority farmers with small- and mid-size farms increase crop production and get their goods to farmers markets by providing micro loans. They also provide small grants to farmers markets to help expand and strengthen their operations. Additional grants to community groups helped develop educational demonstrations, activities at rural farmers markets and coupons for families to use at the market to purchase fresh produce.

### [Fair Food Network](#)

The Fair Food Network has four main objectives, each of which promotes the significance of access to healthy foods in areas that lack such access. The ultimate aim of the organization is to create and maintain a “more sustainable and just food system”. Objectives include: 1) improving access to healthy food, 2) informing public policy, 3) strengthening funding strategies, and 4) expanding networks and sharing knowledge.

### [Michigan Future Farmers of America](#)

The Michigan Future Farmers of America is an association, foundation and alumni group that envisions every young person finding their passion making a difference in the lives of students developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. Through this organization, funding and service projects are provided that at times align with providing local, fresh food to pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### [Michigan Food & Farming Systems \(MIFFS\) - Women in Ag Network](#)

In Flint, MIFFS partnered with a team of women farmers, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), The MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS), The Community Foundation of Greater Flint, and the Genesee County Schools to initiate a Women-in-Ag Collective Farming Center. This center will set up the farm and sales process for more fresh vegetables to be purchased and served in Genesee County Schools. CRFS will fund a facilitated Women-in-Ag Network, encouraging women to help each other solve problems and develop new solutions for themselves, their families, and their communities.

### [Michigan Farm Market Association](#)

The Michigan Farmers Market Association works with and for farmers market organizers, managers, farmers, vendors and friends to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products. In the last ten years, the number of farmers markets in Michigan has grown from around 90 in 2001 to more than 300 today.

### [Food Bank Council of Michigan](#)

The Food Bank Council of Michigan was founded in 1984 through the cooperative efforts of the state's regional food banks. The purpose of the Food Bank Council was to implement a unified strategy to address and alleviate hunger statewide by increasing emergency food resources and advocating on behalf of the hunger relief network. At the time, many cities in Michigan faced unprecedented unemployment rates and communities suffered as a result. Michigan food banks stepped in to provide emergency support for families and individuals without enough food.

**[BackPack Programs:](#)** (Many, many non-profit, faith-based, after school and more organizations offer a "BackPack" program variation. Food Bank providers include: Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Gleaners Community Food Bank, Food Bank of South Central MI, etc): The Kids' After-School Pack program targets children from low-income families who are at risk of going hungry over the weekend. Once each week during the school year, kids are given special backpacks that are filled with non-perishable food. A typical backpack, depending upon our Food Bank inventory, has contained items like: a protein (canned macaroni o's & beef, or beans & franks, or beef stew, or peanut butter or soup), fruit juice and usually an additional beverage, crackers, Nutri-Grain bars, single serve cookies, single serve chips, individual boxes of cereal, pudding cups, and packets of instant oatmeal. A backpack can weigh 5 to 7 lbs., depending upon what's in it. The cost of the food included in a typical Kids' After-School Pack averages \$3.50/pack. This does not include the cost of the cloth backpacks.

### [Mid-MI Food Systems Workgroup](#)

The Food Systems Workgroup (FSW) has been meeting since fall of 2009 to establish a team of individuals to develop and pursue the mission that everyone has equitable access to safe, healthy and affordable food. The need for a local workgroup was established by the 2007 Comprehensive Health Assessment Process & Survey; which facilitated conversations and surveys with Eaton, Clinton and Ingham residents. Survey results identified "improve safety of food," "improve quality of food" and "access to healthy food" as ranking 3rd, 4th and 7th on a list of 25 concerns that were "essential or very important" to respondents. In December 2009, the yet nameless group developed a logic model to guide programming directed toward food system producers, consumers and decision makers. This document became a foundation of understanding specific needs that became the focus of our collaborative work. By the summer of 2011, the FSW began in earnest to develop its decision making and membership structure and by-laws were developed and approved. These by-laws were amended in 2014 The Food System Workgroup continues to move forward with the development and implementation of a strategic plan and establishment of Action Teams to achieve our goals.

**[Food Systems Profile:](#)** The Food System Workgroup of Mid-Michigan has compiled a database of fifty-four indicators describing the current state of Ingham County's food system. This profile provides a comprehensive, interactive resource to "inform community planning and programming on this topic and to serve as a baseline for measuring the progress of local initiatives" (1). The Profile is based off of an existing data set collected by the North Central Region County Food Systems Profiles Portal, a project of University of Wisconsin Extension and was updated by FSW interns Amy Jacobs and Jazmin Bolan-Williamson, under the direction of Randy Bell, Extension Educator for Community Food Systems, and with help from FSW Board Member, Nancy McCrohan, to create an easy-to-use web interface.

## ***Programming:***

### **Detroit Fresh Food Access Initiative and Green Grocer Project**

The Detroit Fresh Food Access Initiative was formed in October 2007 in response to the city's unmet demand for grocery stores. Headed by the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) with support from the Kresge Foundation, the initiative created a multi-sector taskforce that released a report in August 2008 with recommendations of ways to strengthen the overall grocery industry as a delivery mechanism for fresh and healthy foods.

### **Ride to Groceries**

Ride to Groceries is a pilot program initiated in April 2015 in response to concerns about limited access to healthy foods and full-service grocery stores. It services Flint Eastside residents through a call-in service and a limited access bus route. The cost of the service is \$2.25 per ride.

### **Women Infant Child (WIC) programming**

Of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants & Child (WIC) program is a health and nutrition program that has demonstrated a positive effect on pregnancy outcomes, child growth and development. It is a federally funded program, administered by MI Department of Health and Human Services at the state level, that serves low and moderate income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5 who have a nutrition-related health problem. Pregnant and postpartum women and children (under 5 years of age) participating in WIC receive food benefits for milk, cheese, eggs, cereals, peanut butter, dry beans/peas or canned beans/peas, and fruit or vegetable juices, fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grain choices to include breads, tortillas, brown rice and oatmeal. Women who exclusively breastfeed their babies may also receive extra food, including canned tuna fish. Special formulas or nutritional supplements are also available to participating women and children who have certain medical conditions.

**Project FRESH:** Through WIC, Project FRESH makes available fresh produce to low-income, nutritionally-at-risk consumers, through Michigan farmers' markets. Each client receives a \$30 booklet of fifteen \$2 coupons to be used June 1st through October 31st in the year the booklet is issued. Coupons can only be used to buy fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables at authorized farmers' markets and roadside stands. All farmers participating in Project FRESH will have a laminated yellow poster stating: "Project FRESH Coupons Accepted Here." In FY 2011, 112 Michigan farmers' markets, 130 roadside stands and 1,529 Michigan farmers were authorized to accept WIC Project FRESH Coupons. Participants may buy locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, but are especially encouraged to buy broccoli, carrots, potatoes, squash, peaches, apples and tomatoes. A variety of produce rich in vitamins A, C, and folic acid are emphasized. Current allowable herbs are: Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Lemon Grass, Marjoram, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Summer Savory, Sorrel, Tarragon and Thyme.

### **Michigan Department of Education: Summer Food Service Program**

The SFSP is a Child Nutrition Program that feeds children during school summer vacations. It uses meal patterns similar to those used in other federal child nutrition programs. The SFSP Income Eligibility Standards are the same as those used for reduced-price eligibility in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The SFSP is operated at the local level by program sponsors and is administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of School Support Services.

**Meet Up and Eat Up: (information on this program is found at the Summer Food Service Program site above – however, a press release link describing it in further detail is available [here](#) and a map linked below)**

The Summer Food Service Program serves nutritious meals to children up to age 18 living in low-income areas (where 50 percent or more of the students qualify for free or reduced price school meals). The program can operate in schools, public housing centers, playgrounds, camps, parks, and faith-based facilities. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is proud to announce the availability of the new and improved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Site Locator Map. This map will allow families to identify the nearest *Meet Up and Eat*

Up™ site complete with information such as location, meal types, and times. It will even provide driving directions. The map can be found at <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/>.

### **Michigan No Kid Hungry**

Michigan No Kid Hungry (MNKH) is a partnership between Share Our Strength and United Way of Southeastern MI. MNKH believes the most effective way to reduce childhood hunger in the state is to improve outreach to eligible families, help them access already-established programs and encourage community members to get involved to address the issue. MI No Kid Hungry will help to increase participation in school breakfast and summer meals programming, expand the reach of nutrition education efforts, and support economic growth. In addition, Michigan No Kid Hungry is again sponsoring a texting campaign, whereby individuals can text “FoodMI” to 877-877 to receive the most up-to-date site location information.

### **Feeding America**

Feeding America strives to end hunger in MI by supporting seven local food banks. Their mission is to feed Michigan’s hungry through a national network. Feeding America works to provide out-of-school meals to at-risk youth.

### **Michigan Hunger Solutions**

Michigan Hunger Solutions (MHS) is offered through the United Way works to increase the effectiveness of anti-hunger programs and reduce barrier for the hungry to receive assistance. MHS is currently focused on Child Nutrition Programs throughout the state, including School Breakfast, After-School and Summer Meals.

### **Double Up Food Bucks**

The Double Up program began at five farmers markets in Detroit in 2009 and has since grown to more than 150 sites across Michigan and has become a model for communities nationwide offered through the Fair Food Network. Double Up also expanded to grocery stores in 2013 in one of the first pilots in the nation. In five years, it has benefited more than 300,000 low-income families and 1,000 farmers. Double Up has also been at the forefront of innovations in healthy food incentives including spearheading new transaction systems at farmers markets and grocery stores. At accepting farm markets and grocery stores, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programming Bridge Card dollars can double your purchase of fresh fruits and veggies grown in Michigan. Double Up is the first statewide incentive program to be rolled out with a uniform design, central administration, and local implementation. It has proven to be successful in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. The program is rooted in partnerships—both with local partners and key statewide efforts.

### **Pantry Net or 2-1-1 call line**

Utilizing the internet or phone, anyone can locate a food pantry nearest them by zip code or search radius.

### **10 Cents A Meal**

10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms is a joint, two year project of the Michigan Land Use Institute’s farm to school program, the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, and nine school districts in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. Schools have extremely tight meal budgets with only 20 to 30 cents per meal to spend on produce. This project supports schools in their efforts to buy and serve locally grown food.

## ***Resources for Teachers (primarily NW MI):***

**Local Food for Cafeterias Directory:** Find locally grown food for school cafeterias and snacks [here](#).

**Tools for Teachers Directory:** Local food, farm and garden education can teach students valuable lessons about health while also preparing them to meet grade level requirements determined by state and national education standards: learn more [here](#).

**School and Community Garden Resources:** Community gardens typically have many plots available to “grow your own” or “grow a row” for people in need. These plots are great for people whose yards are too shady for a garden, don’t have land at all, or just want to garden with others. Across the country, community gardens are positive community assets, like parks and bike paths, and often help grow youth leadership and the community economy: learn more [here](#).

**Farmer Classroom Visits Director:** Northwest MI farmers available for class visits [here](#).

**Farm Field Trip Opportunities:** Field trip opportunities that feature local food and farms [here](#).

**Chef and Nutrition Educator Visits Directory:** Northwest Michigan chefs, nutrition educators and more [here](#).

**Farm Fresh Fundraiser Resources:** Give kids quality, meaningful alternative to candy sales and other fundraiser that pitch mass-produced products with no connection to home: learn more [here](#).

**FarmRai\$er:** Connecting farmers/artisans with great causes, turning students into healthy eating advocates: learn

**Other Locally Grown Fundraising Products:** Check it out [here](#)!