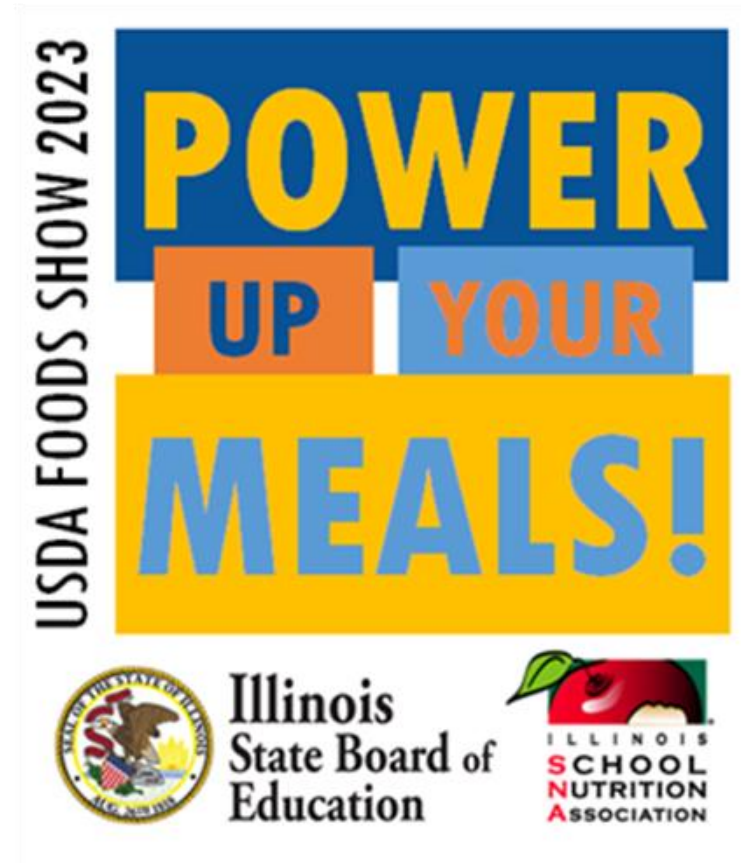



# Ignite Local Food Purchases with LFS Funds!

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A top-down view of a variety of fresh vegetables arranged in a circular pattern around a central white card. The vegetables include corn, mushrooms, tomatoes, fennel, cherry tomatoes, a purple cabbage, yellow and red bell peppers, asparagus, yellow and red bell peppers, green onions, eggplants, and purple potatoes. The card is white and has the text "What is LFS?" written on it in a black, sans-serif font.

What is  
LFS?

- Local Food for Schools (LFS) is funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods **to be served in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast programs.**
- IL was awarded \$7,360,472

# LFS Basics

## Who can participate?

- SFAs that have at least 1 site in the NSLP and/or SBP are eligible.
  - Public Schools
  - Charter Schools
  - Non-public Schools
  - RCCI's
- There is no Free & Reduced Eligibility percentage requirement
- If a SFA has some sites in NSLP and/or SBP and some sites in just IL Free and/or just Special Milk, the LFS funds can only be used to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods for service in the NSLP and/or SBP.

## Start and End of Funding

- Starts August 1, 2023 (all of the 2023-2024 SY)
- Ends January 31, 2025 (part of the 2024-2025 SY)



# What is the definition of local?

Local and regional food is raised, produced, aggregated, stored, processed, and distributed in the locality or region where the final product is marketed to consumers, so that the total distance that the product travels between the farm or ranch where the product originates and the point of sale to the end consumer is at most 400 miles, or both the final market and the origin of the product are within the same State or territory.





# Targeting of Purchases

- Purchases should target local and regional Socially Disadvantaged farmers/producers and small businesses.
- The key word here is “target”. It is not a “requirement” that purchases be made from socially disadvantaged farmers/producers and small businesses – it is a target or a goal and SFAs should make all reasonable attempts to meet these targets.
- This is information that the SFA will need to track and report to ISBE.



# Socially Disadvantaged

- A farmer or rancher who is a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group.
- A Socially Disadvantaged Group is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of:
  - Race
  - Color
  - National origin
  - Age
  - Disability
  - And where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

# Small Business

- Defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a business that is:
  - A for profit business of any legal structure;
  - Independently owned and operated,
  - Not nationally dominant in its field, AND
  - Physically located and operated in the U.S. or its territories.



# Allowable & Unallowable costs

## Allowable



- Direct cost of foods
- Direct costs of storage
- Direct costs of distribution
- For example:
  - Fees charged by commercial warehouse operators and common carriers for storage and transportation.
  - Total cost for a 36 count box of apples – may include direct costs of the apple, direct costs for storage of those apples and direct costs for delivery (transportation) of those apples.

## Unallowable



- Administrative expenses (Ex. salaries, program development, outreach, technical assistance)
- Indirect costs
- Equipment
- Capital Investments
- Construction
- Production costs (seed, fertilizer, etc)

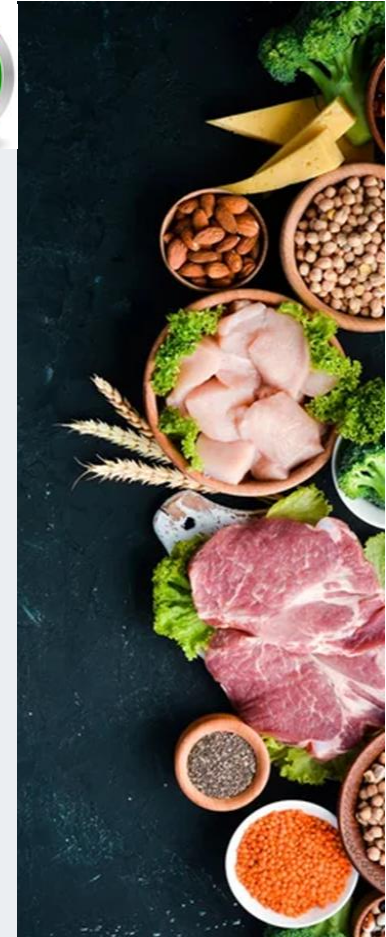
# What Foods are considered unprocessed or minimally Processed?



## Allowable



- Fruits and vegetables (including 100% juices);
- Grain products such as pastas and rice;
- Meats (whole, pieces, or food items such as ground meats);
- Meat alternates such as beans or legumes, and
- Dairy products such as cheese and yogurt.
- Foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (e.g., whole, cut, pureed, etc.) and/or forms (e.g., fresh, frozen, canned, dried, etc.) are also allowable.





# Supplanting



- LFS funds must be used to **increase or expand** but not duplicate existing food procurement.
- LFS funds are to be additional reimbursement to the Federal and State reimbursement received for serving a reimbursable meal. This funding is meant to allow sponsors to spend more money per meal to support local procurement. For example, the funding may allow a sponsor to procure and serve local beef that is more expensive than the traditional reimbursement rates would allow.



# Who can I purchase local foods from?

- Local Farmers
- Local Ranchers
- Local Producers (ex. Dairies)
- Local Processors (ex. meat/poultry processing facilities/businesses)
- Distributors
- Food Hubs and/or Farmer Cooperatives
- Through your Purchasing Cooperative



# Help Finding Local Foods

- IL Farm to School Network
  - <http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/>
  - [farmtoschool@sevendgenerationsahead.org](mailto:farmtoschool@sevendgenerationsahead.org)
- Illinois Market Maker
  - <https://il.foodmarketmaker.com/>
- IL Farm Bureau
  - County Contacts: <https://www.ilfb.org/about-us/directory/>
  - Main webpage: <https://www.ilfb.org/>
- Local Farmers Market
  - IL Farmers Market Association: <https://www.ilfma.org/>
- UofI Extension
  - Find a UofI Ext. Office: <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/where-we-serve>
- Your Current Distributor or DoD Provider
- Your Purchasing Cooperative
- ISBE Known Farmer, Rancher, Producer, Processor, Distributor Lists – In WINS
  - It is not required that SFAs must purchase from suppliers on our “known” list nor do we “recommend” any supplier.



College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences  
Illinois Extension



# Illinois Funding Plan



Funding Allotment File is posted on the F2CNP webpage.

Link: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-funding-allotments.pdf>

- Sub-grant funds to SFA's to purchase local foods that meet the LFS requirements.

## **Minimum Allotments:**

- SFAs with less than 100 students enrolled will be allotted \$3000
- SFAs with between 101-999 students will be allotted \$3500
- SFAs with and NSLP enrollment of 1000 or greater will be allotted \$3.50 per student enrolled.

## **We are exploring the possibilities and processes for the following:**

- For SFAs to request additional funds on an as needed basis.
- The availability of extra funds if some funds go unused.



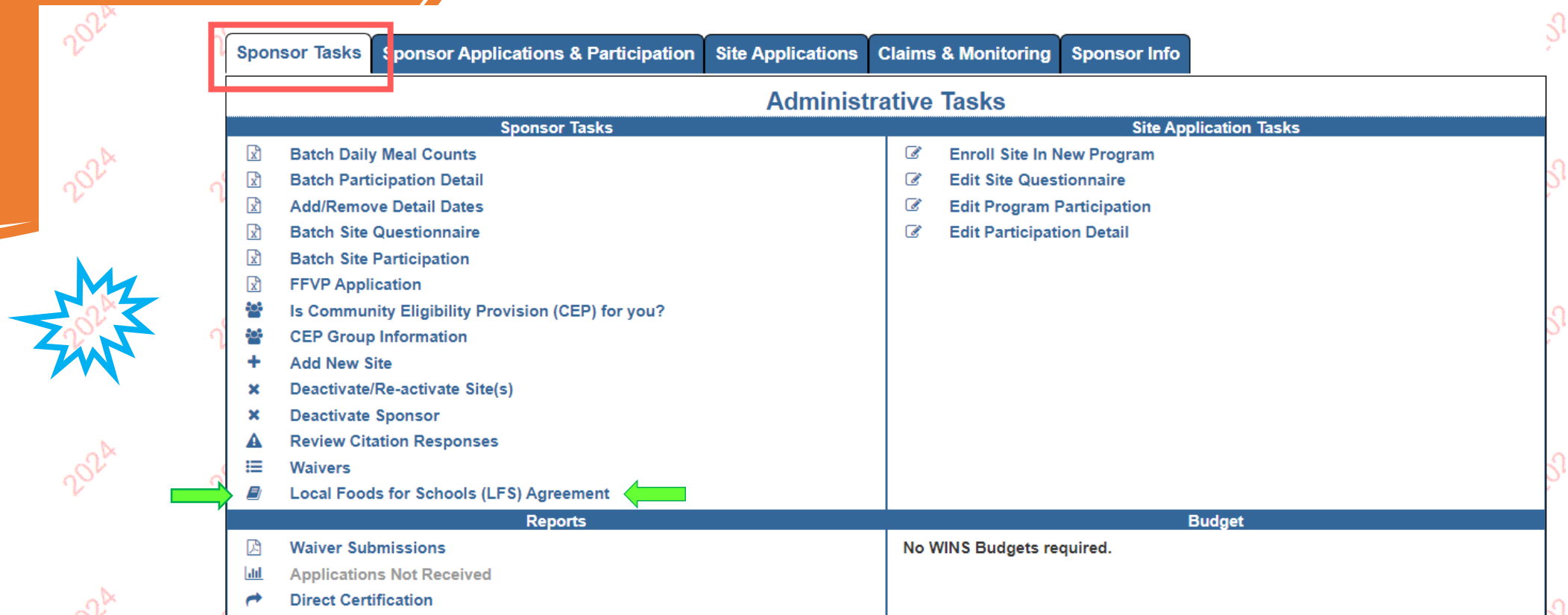
# How does the funding work?

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- The LFS Cooperative Agreement is a REIMBURSEMENT program.
- SFAs will purchase local foods meeting the LFS requirements using their own funds.
- Each month the SFA may submit a claim for reimbursement to ISBE.



# Application in WINS



The screenshot displays the WINS application interface. At the top, a navigation bar contains five tabs: **Sponsor Tasks**, **Sponsor Applications & Participation**, **Site Applications**, **Claims & Monitoring**, and **Sponsor Info**. The **Sponsor Tasks** tab is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled **Administrative Tasks** and is divided into two columns: **Sponsor Tasks** and **Site Application Tasks**.

**Sponsor Tasks Column:**

- Batch Daily Meal Counts
- Batch Participation Detail
- Add/Remove Detail Dates
- Batch Site Questionnaire
- Batch Site Participation
- FFVP Application
- Is Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for you?
- CEP Group Information
- Add New Site
- Deactivate/Re-activate Site(s)
- Deactivate Sponsor
- Review Citation Responses
- Waivers
- Local Foods for Schools (LFS) Agreement

**Site Application Tasks Column:**

- Enroll Site In New Program
- Edit Site Questionnaire
- Edit Program Participation
- Edit Participation Detail

At the bottom of the interface, there are two sections: **Reports** and **Budget**.

**Reports Section:**

- Waiver Submissions
- Applications Not Received
- Direct Certification

**Budget Section:**

No WINS Budgets required.

Annotations on the screenshot include a blue starburst graphic on the left side and two green arrows pointing to the **Local Foods for Schools (LFS) Agreement** item in the **Sponsor Tasks** column.

# Resources

- F2S Webpage:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Farm-to-School.aspx>
  - Introduction to LFS webinar:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR3Gd-TpM6c>
  - Sourcing Local Foods with IL Market Maker webinar:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKEkmro\\_bZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKEkmro_bZQ)
  - Funding Allotments:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-funding-allotments.pdf>
  - School F2S Survey:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-school-survey-info-link.pdf>
- Fast Facts & Timelines:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-fastfacts-timeline.pdf>
  - How to Apply:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-funding-howtosignup.pdf>
  - Procurement Guidance Flowchart:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-procurementresource-flowchart.pdf>
  - Taste Test Resources:  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bulletins/3303352>
  - [https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IFSN\\_Taste-Test-Toolkit-HOTM.pdf](https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IFSN_Taste-Test-Toolkit-HOTM.pdf)



# Promote your local Foods

- Include an icon or message on your menus next to local foods on the menu
- Do Taste Tests of new local products that you incorporate into your breakfast and/or lunch meals (we will post these links on the IL F2CNP webpage)
  - Team Nutrition Taste Test Resources:  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bulletins/3303352>
  - IL F2S Network and Seven Generations Ahead Taste Test Resource:  
[https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IFSN\\_Taste-Test-Toolkit-HOTM.pdf](https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IFSN_Taste-Test-Toolkit-HOTM.pdf)
- Incorporate a picture of the farm and/or farmer that your local foods came from along with a short description of the farm and/or farmer in your food line or cafeteria.
- Get your district administration involved – invite the principal, vice principal, Superintendent and/or school board members to visit on local food days.
- Promote the work you are doing
  - School newsletters
  - District website
  - Local news media
  - Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)





# You are doing amazing things and ISBE would love to know more!



- Invite us for a visit
  - To show us your local foods and meal service
  - For any events (farmer visits, media events, etc)
- Share pictures with us
- Share news articles or news segments





## Thank you for attending!

We look forward to seeing what fresh local foods are served in Illinois Schools!

Please reach out with any Questions.

Email: [localfoods@isbe.net](mailto:localfoods@isbe.net)

Phone: 800/545-7892

F2CNP Website: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Farm-to-School.aspx>

Nutrition Website: [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

