



SNP BACK TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement

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Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community



- 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.

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- 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
- <u>http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/</u>
- farmtoschool@sevengenerationsahead.org
- Illinois Market Maker
 - <u>https://il.foodmarketmaker.com/</u>
- IL Farm Bureau

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- County Contacts: https://www.ilfb.org/about-us/directory/
- Main webpage: <u>https://www.ilfb.org/</u>
- Local Farmers Market
 - IL Farmers Market Association: <u>https://www.ilfma.org/</u>
- Uofl Extension
 - Find a UofI Ext. Office: <u>https://extension.illinois.edu/global/where-we-serve</u>
- Your Current Distributor or DoD Provider
- Your Purchasing Cooperative
- ISBE Known Farmer, Rancher, Producer, Processor, Distributor Lists Coming Soon!
 - 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: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-</u> <u>funding-allotments.pdf</u> • 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:

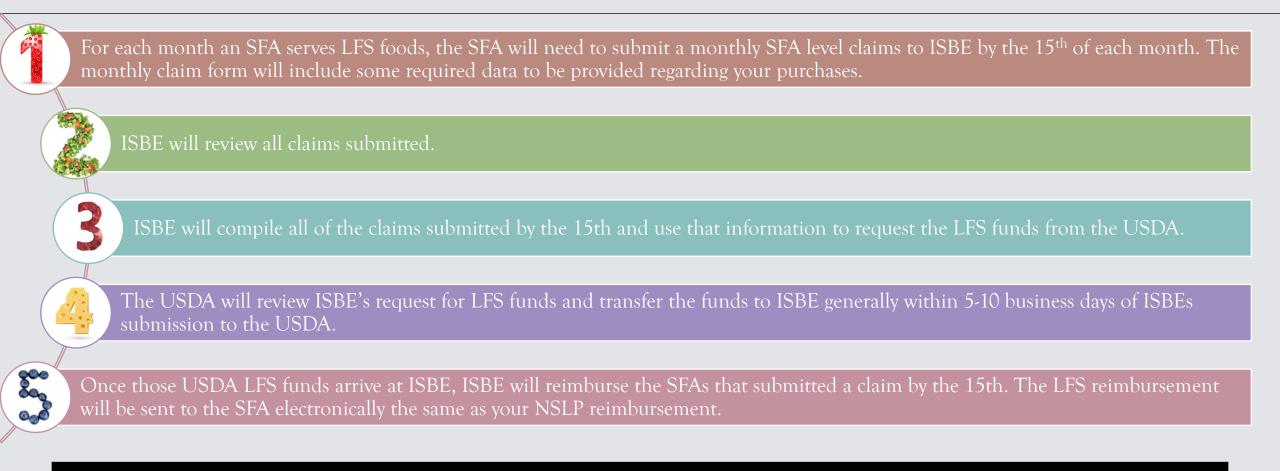
- For SFAs to request additional funds on an as needed basis.
- The availability of extra funds if some funds go unused.

HOW DOES THE FUNDING WORK?

- 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.



CLAIM OVERVIEW



Note: ISBE can only submit 1 claim each month to the USDA, therefore, if you miss the deadline, ISBE will be able to reimburse you but the SFA will have to wait until after the next months due date to receive their reimbursement.

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

SFAs will submit the following data elements on each monthly claim.

Purchases Direct from the Farmer, Rancher and/or Producer

- Name of all of the farmers, rancher and/or producers you purchased from that calendar month.
- The total amount the SFA purchased from each farmer, rancher and/or producer for that calendar month.
- Report if the farmer, rancher and/or producer is socially disadvantaged or a small business
- Specifics of what foods were purchased (ex. apples, yogurt, rice) for each farmer, rancher and/or producer.

DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

SFAs will submit the following data elements on each monthly claim.

Purchases From a Distributor, Processor and/or Food Hub

- Name of all distributors, processors and/or food hubs that the SFA purchased from that calendar month (who was the invoice from).
- Total amount the SFA purchased from each distributor, processor and/or food hub for that calendar month.
- Report if the distributor, processor and/or food hub is socially disadvantaged or a small business.
- The names of the farms, ranches and/or producers the food received through the distributor, processor and/or food hub came from (origin of the food).
- Remember all food must meet the definition of local
- Were any of the farmers, ranchers and/or producers socially disadvantaged or small businesses.
- Specifics of what foods were purchased (ex. apples, ground beef, rice)

CLAIM FORMS

We will provide a link to the electronic claim form along with instructions on the Farm to Child Nutrition Programs webpage.

Here is a screenshot of the claim form, it will start with some basic instructions and information about completing the claim.

Local Food for Schools (LFS) Claim

Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department

This is the claim form to request reimbursement from the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Department, for the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program.

C. ...

Claims must be submitted monthly if purchases were made within the month. For example, if purchases were made in September 2023, a September 2023 claim must be submitted. If no purchases were made in November 2023, then no claim needs to be submitted for November 2023.

Reimbursement must be requested by local food item, and you may include as many local food items on each claim as needed. For example, if you purchased local beef and local sweetcorn during the month of September, please answer the claim questions for "Local food #1" related to the beef, and questions for "Local food #2" for the sweetcorn.

This form also requests data required by USDA, related to the farmer/rancher/supplier. Refer to the LFS Claim Instructions for the definitions of socially disadvantaged and small business.

QUESTION #1

Select the month & year of this claim (ex. select September 2023 for all food purchases that occurred 9/1/23 to 9/30/23.

Note: you only need to fill out a claim for the months that you purchased LFS foods. August 2023

O September 2023

October 2023

O November 2023

O December 2023

🔘 January 2024

O February 2024

O March 2024

O April 2024

O May 2024

🔵 June 2024

O July 2024

O August 2024

O September 2024

October 2024

O November 2024

O December 2024

🔘 January 2025

QUESTIONS 2 & 3

2) School District Name.

Remember – this is an SFA level claim, so you are not reporting by site, you are adding all of your LFS purchases for the whole SFA together for each month and reporting it to us.

3) School District Agreement # or RCDT

This number is EXTREMELY important to us, it is how we make sure we pay the right Sponsor, if it is wrong, your money may get reimbursed to a different Sponsor.

If you are unsure of your Agreement # or RCDT # - when you login into WINS the number should be at the top of your screen it is an 11 digit number.

2. School District Name * 🛄						
	Enter your answer					
3. School District Agreement # / RCDT # 00-000-0000-00 * 🛛 🖓						
	Enter your answer					

QUESTIONS ABOUT EACH FOOD ITEM

Next you are going to tell us **by food item** all of the following things:

- a) Total dollar amount of your first food item you are claiming (including the cost of the food, storage and/or distribution)
- b) Name of the food (ex. Turkey)
- c) Name of the farmer/rancher
- d) Is the farmer/rancher socially disadvantaged?
- e) Is the farmer/rancher a small business?

If the food item had more than 1 link in the supply chain (ex. processor or distributor) then there will be some additional questions about each of those links. Enter your answer

5. Local food #1 - provide the type of food purchased (ex: turkey). * 🛛 🖓

Enter your answer

6. Local food #1 - provide the name of the farmer/rancher. *

Enter your answer

7. Local food #1 - is the farmer/rancher socially disadvantaged, based on the LFS definition? * 🛛 🖓

🔵 Yes

No

8. Local food #1 - is the farmer/rancher a small business, based on the LFS definition? * 🛛 🖓

🔵 Yes

🔘 No

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS IF YOU HAD AT LEAST 2 LINKS IN THIS FOODS SUPPLY CHAIN

If you had a more than 1 link in the supply chain for food #1 to get to you then you will need to answer the following questions:

- a) What is the name of this additional link in the supply chain? (ex. if you had a processor what is the name of the processor)?
- b) Is this additional link the supply chain socially disadvantaged?
- c) Is this additional link in the supply chain a small business?

9. Local food #1 - if the purchase involved multiple links/suppliers in the chain from the farmer to your school, please provide information on all of the suppliers. For example, if local food #1 was grown by a rancher, then went to a processor, and then to a distributor, please provide all supplier information in the following questions. First, provide the name of Supplier A (ex: ABC Processor or XYZ Distributor).

Enter your answer

10. Local food #1 - is Supplier A socially disadvantaged, based on the LFS definition? 🔲

Yes

O No

11. Local food #1 - is Supplier A a small business, based on the LFS definition? 🔲

O Yes

No

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS IF YOU HAD A 3RD LINK IN THIS FOODS SUPPLY CHAIN.

If you had another link in the supply chain for food #1 to get to you then you will answer the following questions for this supplier (if this food does not have a 3rd link in the supply chain you can skip this question):

- a) What is the name of this 3rd link in the chain?
 (ex. if your turkey went from the turkey farmer, to a processor and then the 3rd link or supplier in this chain is a distributor provide the distributors name).
- b) Is this 3rd supplier for food item #1 socially disadvantaged?
- c) Is this 3rd supplier for food item #1 socially disadvantaged?

 Local food #1 - if local food #1 included both a processor and a distributor, please provide the name of Supplier B (ex: ABC Processor or XYZ Distributor). If no other suppliers were involved, please skip to Question #15.

Enter your answer

13. Local food #1 - is Supplier B socially disadvantaged, based on the LFS definition? 🔲

Yes

O No

14. Local food #1 - is Supplier B a small business, based on the LFS definition? 🔲

Yes

No

DID YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL FOOD ITEMS THAT MONTH?

The next question is going to ask you if you purchased any additional food items that claim month?

If the answer is No – mark No and hit Submit. This will complete your claim.

If the answer is Yes – Mark Yes and you will go through all of the same questions we just went over for food item #2 and so on for up to as many as 5 food items. If you have more than 5 food items per month please reach out to us at <u>localfoods@isbe.net</u> prior to starting your claim. 15. Did you purchase more than 1 local food this month? If no, please select No and click the submit button. If yes, please select Yes, complete the remaining applicable questions, and click the submit button. There is space to claim up to 5 local foods. If you purchased more than 5 local foods this month, please email <u>localfoods@isbe.net</u>. *



◯ No

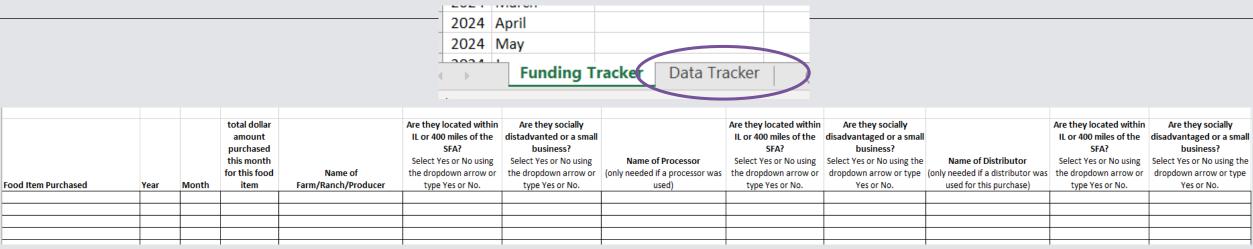
Submit

RESOURCE: FUNDING & DATA TRACKER

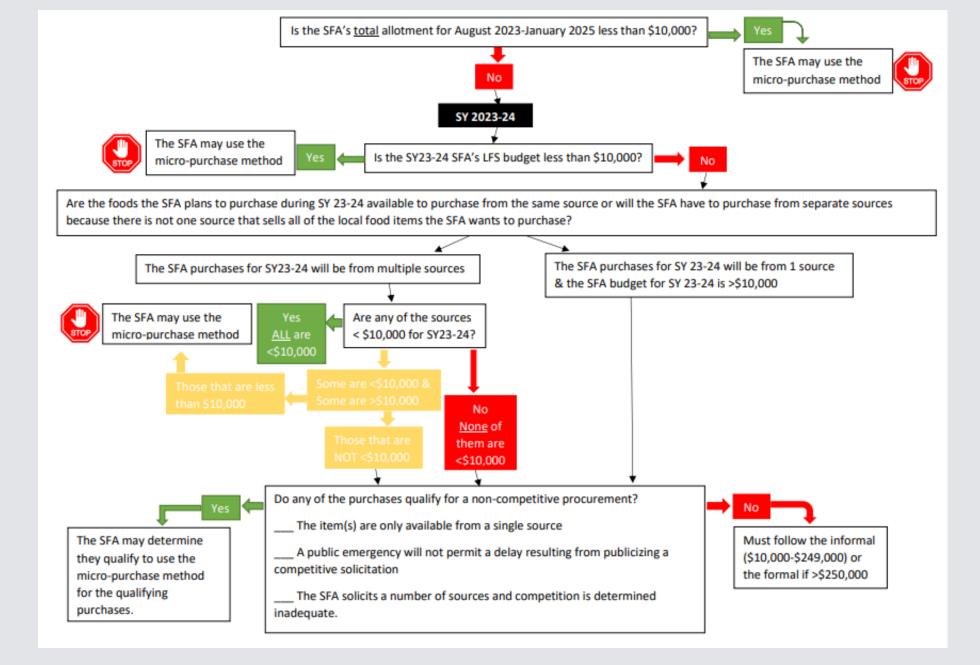
	Local Food for Schools LFS								
2	Funding & Data Tracker								
3									
1	Name of School Food Authority (SFA)								
5	Total LFS Allotment								
3									
7									
3	Expenses & Allotment Balance Tracking								
				Date Claim	Remaining LFS Allotment (total allotment minus expenses)				
			Total Allowable	₩as	*The amount in this column is the total				
			Expenses for the	submitted to	remaining balance of funds & will update each				
Э	Year	Month	Month	ISBE	time expenses are entered.				
0	2023	August			0				
1		September			0				
2	2023	October			0				
3	2023	November			0				
4	2023	December			0				
5	2024	January			0				
3	2024	February			0				
7		March			0				
З	2024	April			0				
Э	2024	May			0				
0		June			0				
1		July			0				
2		August			0				
3	2024	September			0				
4		October			0				
5		November			0				
6		December			0 7				
7	2025	January			0				
8									

- Insert SFA name and total funding allotment in rows 4 and 5.
- Enter your claim amount for each month you purchased LFS foods in the orange column, enter the date you submitted your claim in the blue column and then the remaining LFS funds will display in the purple column.

RESOURCE FUNDING & DATA TRACKER



- The tracker has 2 tabs at the bottom one for the Funding Tracker & one for the Data Tracker.
- For the data tracker it helps you track all of the data that you will need for the claim form.
- It starts with the food item you purchased, then asks for the year and month, the dollar amount for that months purchase of this food item, the name of the farmer, rancher, producer and if they are socially disadvantaged or a small business.
- Then it asks for those other links in the supply chain was there a processor involved in the purchase of this food item? If so, are tey socially disadvantaged or a small business? Was there a distributor involved in the purchase of this food items? If so, are they socially disadvantaged or a small business?
- In addition to the questions above, the data tracker asks if each link in the chain is located either in IL or within 400 miles of the SFA.

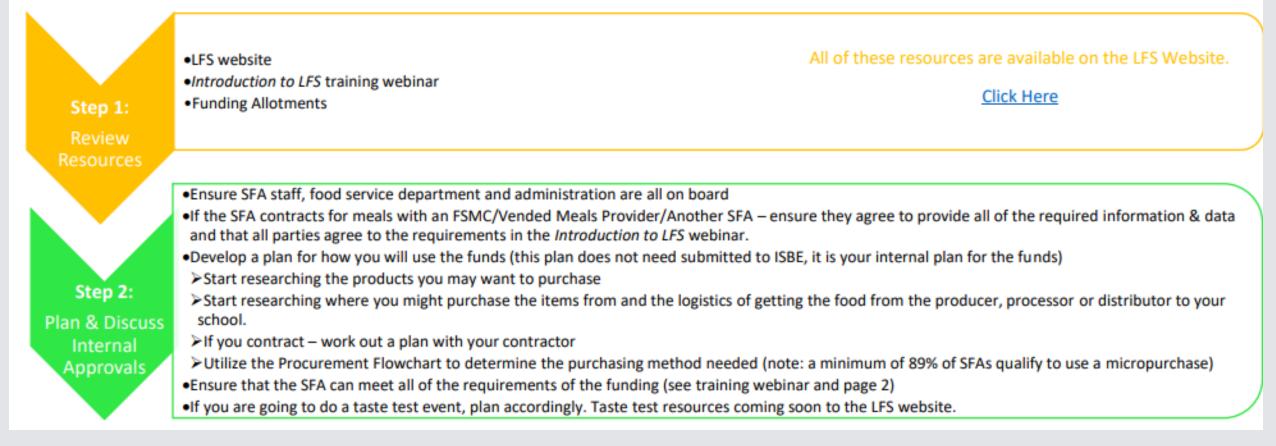


https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-procurementresource-flowchart.pdf

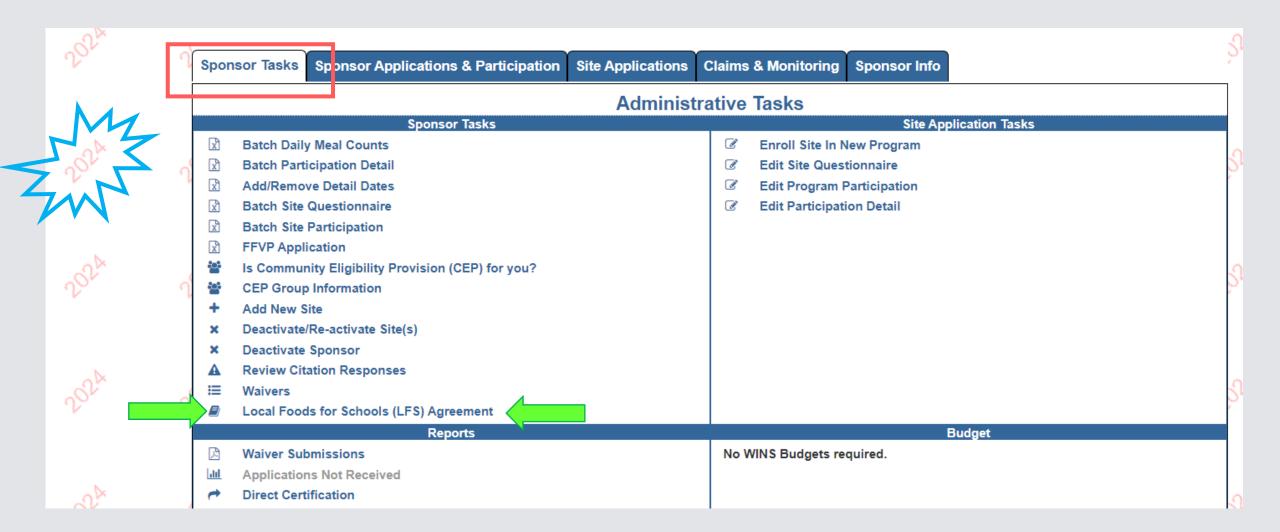
How to Apply Document: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFSfunding-howtosignup.pdf

How to Sign Up for Local Food for Schools (LFS) Funding

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program are eligible to receive <u>LFS</u> funding to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods to serve as part of the NSLP and/or SBP reimbursable meals. The funding is available from August 2023 through January 2025. If your SFA may be interested in LFS funds, the SFA should follow these steps:



STEP 3 – APPLICATION IN WINS



STEP 3 – APPLICATION – PAGE 1



The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is excited to announce that Illinois will be participating in the USDA's Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). This new program will provide 7.3 million dollars to ISBE, that will be reimbursed to eligible schools that purchase local unprocessed and minimally processed food in accordance with the LFS requirements. LFS is available to all School Food Authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program.

The goal of LFS is to increase purchases of domestic, locally grown foods from local producers, small businesses, and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers for distribution to schools in order to build a more resilient local food chain by expanding and strengthening local and regional markets. Those that choose to apply will receive reimbursement for allowable local purchases, up to their allotment amount, made between August 2023 through January 2025. Additional funds may be available upon official request with ISBE.

- · SFAs that wish to participate in LFS should view the Introduction to Local Food for Schools (LFS) webinar. Click here to access the recorded webinar.
- <u>Click here</u> to view your SFAs estimated minimum allotment
- For additional information and resources please visit ISBE's Farm to Child Nutrition Programs (F2CNP) website.

STEP 3- APPLICATION- PAGE 2

Introduction		Contact(s)		Attestation			
Contact Information							
Please identify at least one SFA employee contact for the administration of the Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement below.							
Primary Contact Name:*				Optional secondary contact information			
				Secondary Contact Name:			
Primary Contact Name is required.							
Primary Contact Title:*				Secondary Contact Title:			
Primary Contact Title is required.							
Primary Contact Email:*				Secondary Contact Email:			
Primary Contact Email is required.				Secondary Contact Business Phone:			
Primary Contact Business Phone:*							
Primary Contact Business Phone is required]						

STEP 3- APPLICATION – PAGE 3

How to Apply Document: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFSfunding-howtosignup.pdf

In order to participate, School Food Authorities must agree to the following requirements of the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement.

- Allowable foods include unprocessed or minimally processed local fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy, and grains. Allowable processing methods include cutting, chopping, grinding, pureeing, freezing, canning, and drying. Examples of allowable foods include, raw fruits, raw vegetables, 100% juice, whole, cut, and/or ground meat and poultry, fluid milk, cheese, yogurt, pastas and rice.
- Un-allowable foods include breads, muffins, crackers, sandwiches, chicken nuggets, fish sticks, pizzas, prepared meals, and pre-cooked items.
- · Allowable foods must be served as part of a meal in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP).
- Local is defined as food that 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.
- Purchases should be made from socially disadvantaged producers, defined as 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.
- Purchases should be made from small businesses, defined as 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 costs include direct costs for local food, local food storage, and local food distribution.
- · Un-allowable costs include direct or indirect costs associated with developing or administering the program.
- · Allowable costs must supplement/increase/expand the existing food procurement and food distribution activities.
- · Claims for reimbursement must be submitted monthly.
- Reimbursement funds must be deposited into the non-profit school food service account and comply with 7CFR210.18.
- · Requested data elements must be submitted monthly.
- All applicable Federal, State and Local rules and regulations must be followed, including but not limited to 2 CFR 200, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, local procurement requirements, and food safety requirements.
- All applicable documentation, including but not limited to, the application, claims, procurements, and invoices must be maintained for three (3) years plus the current year, from the end of the funding period, which is January 31, 2025, and made available to USDA and ISBE upon request.

By clicking the accept and submit button, I am certifying that I have the legal authority of the SFA to attest that I hereby agree, as grantee, to comply with all of the terms and conditions herein and all applicable guidance provided by the State Agency via direct communication and/or the ISBE website.



Resources

RESOURCES

- F2S Webpage: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-</u> <u>Nutrition-Farm-to-School.aspx</u>
- Introduction to LFS webinar: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR3Gd-TpM6c</u>
- Sourcing Local Foods with IL Market Maker webinar: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKEkmro_bZQ</u>
- Funding Allotments: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-funding-allotments.pdf</u>
- School F2S Survey:

https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-school-surveyinfo-link.pdf

- Fast Facts & Timelines: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-fastfacts-</u> <u>timeline.pdf</u>
- How to Apply: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFSfunding-howtosignup.pdf</u>
- Procurement Guidance Flowchart: <u>https://www.isbe.net/Documents/LFS-</u> procurementresource-flowchart.pdf
- Taste Test Resources: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bul</u> <u>letins/3303352</u>
- <u>https://sevengenerationsahead.org/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2019/11/IFSN_Taste-Test-Toolkit-</u> <u>HOTM.pdf</u>

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: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bulletins/3303352</u>
 - IL F2S Network and Seven Generations Ahead Taste Test Resource:

https://sevengenerationsahead.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)





Illinois State Board of Education



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: <u>localfoods@isbe.net</u>

Phone: 800/545-7892

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

Nutrition Website: www.isbe.net/nutrition

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