

CRFS

Center for Regional Food Systems

IMPACT REPORT

2025

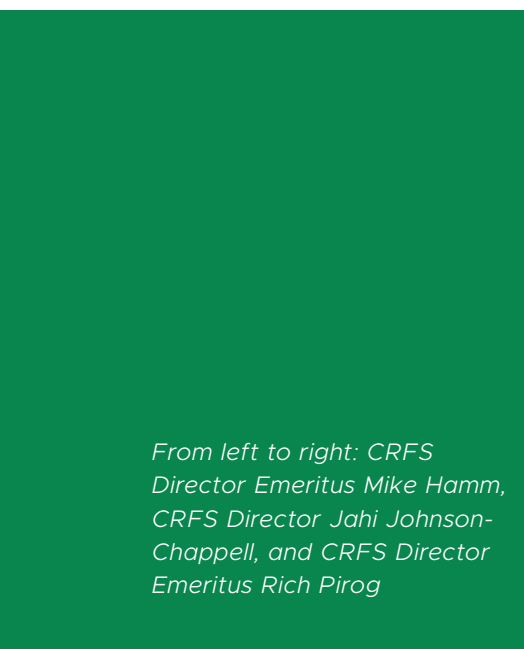




From left to right: CRFS Farm to Youth Network Coordinator Julie Lehman and Partnership Specialist Bekah Galang



CRFS Annual Retreat 2025



From left to right: CRFS Director Emeritus Mike Hamm, CRFS Director Jahi Johnson-Chappell, and CRFS Director Emeritus Rich Pirog



Letter from the Director

“The arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends towards justice.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

In recounting Dr. King’s famous words, the emphasis is often rightly placed on the “justice,” rather than the “long.” However, every step counts in this arc, and it is only through our sustained effort that the moral universe is made to bend. While the need for transforming our food systems is urgent, this is the work of generations. **As we continue into our 24th year, this need drives us at CRFS as we work, and collaborate, towards our vision of food systems that are just, regenerative, and rooted in community power.**



**Dr. M. Jahi Johnson-
Chappell**

In 2025, CRFS continued our strong tradition of research to offer practical tools that serve present needs, from uplifting funding sources to food-related businesses to sharing the impact and evaluation findings of the 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids and Farms program. We deepened our research into documenting the ongoing racial inequities present across food systems, as well as the genius and wisdom communities of color possess that can lead us to overcome inequity and bend towards justice. And we prioritized convening spaces that build trust, power, and collective agency, such as hosting the Michigan Local Food Council Network’s Legislative Education Day, launching a national community of practice for statewide and regional food systems planning, and coordinating across nine other networks spanning our state, region, and country. In some ways, our year was defined by strengthening relationships with our partners across state lines. Despite the incredibly disruptive loss of \$20 million in funding from the termination of the USDA Regional Food Business Centers program in July 2025, we are determined to rebuild even stronger.

What is needed to support food systems that are accessible, diverse, healthy, fair, equitable, and sustainable is broad, big, and bold — and that’s the throughline of our work. To lead us forward, we are thoughtfully designing our theory of change, organizational values, and narrative vision for CRFS’s strategic actions over the next five years — to set us up to be part of a good food systems future.

Ambitious? Yes. Inspired by the innovation and dedication of our partners, we persist on a bold path towards food systems transformation for generations to come. **We look forward to continuing to build, and dream, and to realize justice, in community with all of you.**

In solidarity,

Jahi

Table of Contents

Letter from the Director.....3

2025: Our Year in Review 6

CRFS by the Numbers..... 8

Key Projects & Focus Areas.....10

CRFS and the Michigan Good Food Charter10

Food System Infrastructure, Planning and Policy..... 12

Farm and Food Business Development14

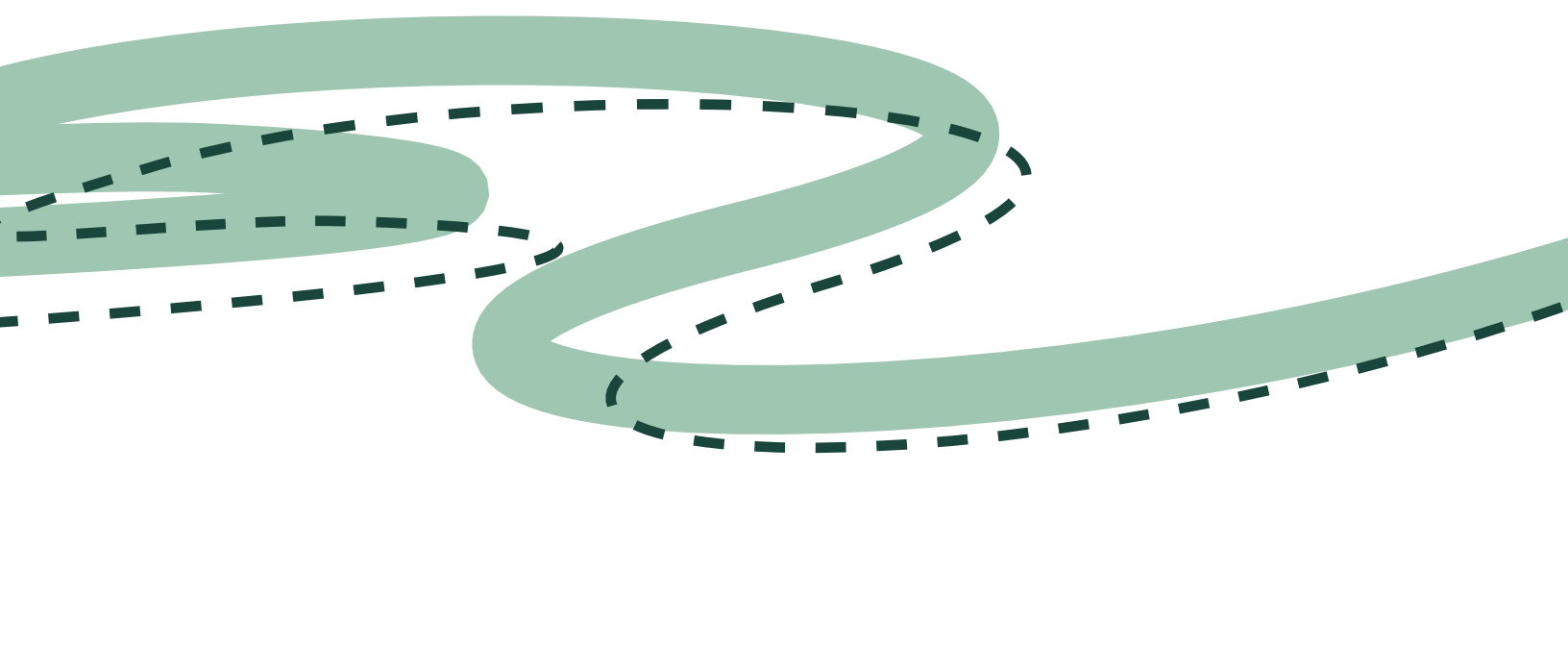
Farm to Early Care and Education, School, and Institution.....16

CRFS in Action: Ten Cents a Meal.....18

CRFS in Action: Annotated Bibliography20

What’s Next for CRFS?22

Thanks & Acknowledgments24



Top right: Delta Fresh Foods, Cleveland, Mississippi

Middle row, left to right: CRFS at Growing Hope, Ypsilanti, Michigan; Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO(GLEXPO), Grand Rapids, Michigan; CRFS team at the Power of Procurement Summit, Chicago Illinois; Michigan's Emerging Farmers at GLEXPO

Bottom left: Julie Lehman and May Tsupros



2025: Our Year in Review

Check out just a few highlights from the last year! Our team shared new resources, convened network meetings, and attended events across the country to better serve our interlocking food systems communities.

January
East Lansing, MI

Eleventh Edition Published

An Annotated Bibliography on Structural Racism Present in the U.S. Food System includes 728 citations across 14 themes exploring structural racism both across the national food system and in specific food sectors and geographies.

February
Lansing, MI

Legislative Education Day

Hosted by the Michigan Local Food Council Network, over 40 constituents attended the Legislative Education Day at the Michigan State Capitol to connect with policymakers.

May
Lansing, MI

Michigan Good Food Fund Pitch Competition

"It always amazes me the dedication and drive the entrepreneurs have for their products!"

-Jazmin Bolan-Williamson

April
Ann Arbor, MI

Sustainable Food Procurement for Institutions Conference

Hosted by the University of Michigan, May Tsupros of CRFS, and Cheyenne Liberti, (former) Farm to School Consultant of Michigan Department of Education, presented on the findings from the 10 Cents a Meal 2022-2023 program evaluation.

March
Spokane, WA

Northwest Food Hub Summit

Sam Stokes, (former) CRFS Outreach Specialist, spoke on a panel at the event and connected with food hubs across the country.

August

Michigan-wide

Plant, Grow, Share: Farm to ECE Webinar Series

Early care and education (ECE) providers came together for a vibrant workshop series, co-hosted by CRFS and National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, focused on integrating farm-to-ECE practices into childcare settings.

December

Lansing, MI

Testifying on the Impacts of Tariffs on Michigan Food Supply Chains

"There's kind of a puzzle piece effect. This farm-to-institution value chain that we've been building for more than 10 years opens our doors for growers and communities to provide avenues for healthy eating and really contributes to that local and regional food economy in Michigan." -Lindsey Scalera

October

Chicago, IL

The Power of Procurement Summit

"The space was incredibly inspiring — and the excitement for what we can do, if we intentionally coordinate with each other, was palpable," -May Tsupros

December

East Lansing, MI

Findings from the 2025 National Food Hub Survey Published

CRFS released initial findings from the 2025 National Food Hub Survey, the 6th iteration of the report since 2012, in collaboration with the University of Michigan Program Evaluation Group.

December

Grand Rapids, MI

Let's all go to GLEXP0!

In mid-December, several members of the CRFS team joined 4,000+ other attendees at the annual Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Expo (GLEXP0) in Grand Rapids. This event is one of the largest gatherings of growers in the Midwest each year. CRFS collaborated with MSU Extension and Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development to host a Meet the Buyers event to connect growers to institutional buyers. Additionally, as a cooperative partner with Michigan's Emerging Farmers, CRFS offered scholarships and transportation to 30+ farmers to attend the event.

CRFS by the Numbers

CRFS coordinated and collaborated across

11

active statewide networks, regional partnerships, and national communities of practice

37

new resources shared, including webinars, publications, and guides

Partnered with

80

organizations and **four regional partners** to support over

890

food and farm businesses in IL, IN, MI and WI

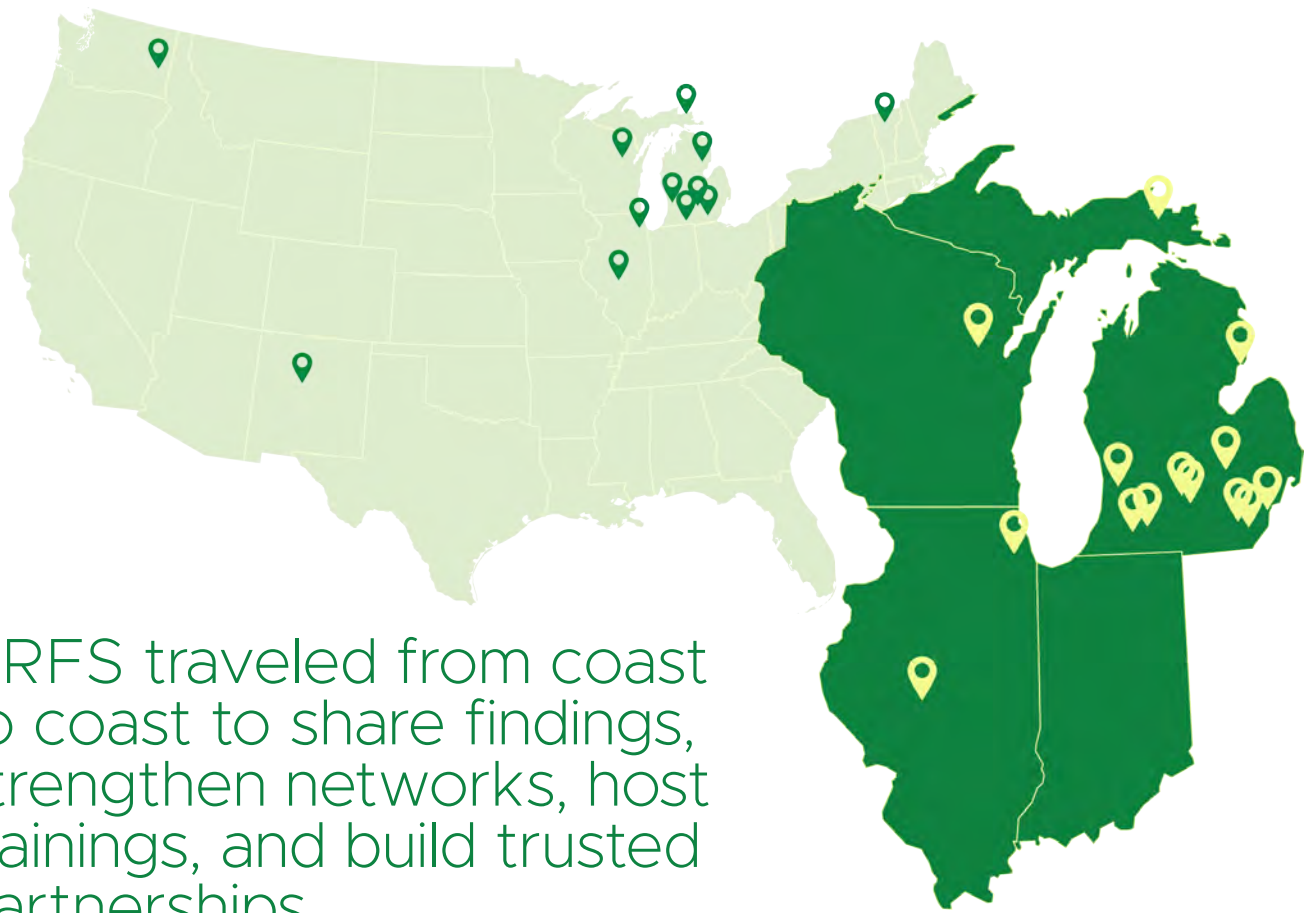
Staff led

88

meetings, workshops and trainings with over

1,700

participants

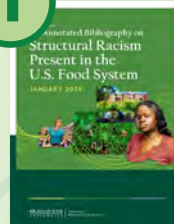


CRFS traveled from coast to coast to share findings, strengthen networks, host trainings, and build trusted partnerships.

Top 5

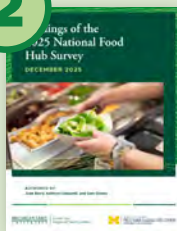
Most Accessed Resources of 2025

1



An Annotated Bibliography on Structural Racism Present in the US Food System, 11th edition

2



Findings of the 2025 National Food Hub Survey

3



Funding Sources for Food Related Businesses - Digital Directory

4



Sustaining Momentum for Michigan's Future: 10 Cents a Meal 2022-2023 Evaluation Results

5



Developing a Michigan Food Truck Business Concept: A Worksheet to Guide Your Business Planning

Key Projects & Focus Areas

By connecting with farmers and policymakers, CRFS advances regionally-rooted food systems through **applied research, education, and outreach**. Our work spans the food systems to advance regionally integrated, sustainable food systems that center on good food as shared in [Michigan Good Food Charter](#). **Good food is accessible, equitable, healthy, fair, diverse, and sustainable.**

The Michigan Good Food Charter provides a shared vision for building a more just, resilient, and thriving food system across the state. Rooted in community collaboration and policy transformation, the Charter has been coordinated by CRFS and served as a catalyst for statewide and local action since its original publication in 2010.

CRFS and the Michigan Good Food Charter

As Michigan leaders continue advancing Charter goals, recent efforts demonstrate the Charter's ongoing influence in shaping policy, strengthening coalitions, and empowering food systems advocates.



CHARTER WINS FOR 2025-2026

- **Updated Cottage Food Law:** Michigan's revised cottage food law doubled the income cap, permitted online sales, and launched a voluntary vendor registry. These changes reduce barriers, support local businesses, and increase access to diverse foods—aligning with Charter priorities.
- **Detroit Animal Agriculture Policy:** The [Detroit Food Policy Council](#) played a crucial role in community organizing, leading to the creation of a new municipal animal agriculture law. The new ordinance was more than 10 years in the making, tailored to meet the needs of Detroit's longstanding tradition of urban agriculture. This effort demonstrates how local food councils can foster food access through food sovereignty approaches.
- **Hunger-Free Campus Grants:** Thanks to the tireless advocacy of Michigan college and university students, Michigan became one of the first states to implement [a grant program supporting public, Tribal, and independent institutions of higher education](#) to implement sustainable solutions to address students' basic needs on campus, specifically food insecurity.

● **Ongoing Advocacy for 10 Cents a Meal:**

Although the 10 Cents a Meal program — originally named as an agenda priority in the 2010 Charter — was not funded in the state budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, the statewide coalition supporting it has never been stronger. Longstanding organizing resulted in robust advocacy this year, including [testimony from other states recognizing Michigan's leadership](#) in local food incentive programs nationwide and urging renewed investment. This momentum highlights how coalitions can preserve and strengthen key programs even in challenging budget cycles.



“ These collective efforts lay the groundwork for a future in which all Michiganders can benefit from ‘a thriving food economy distinguished by equity, health, and sustainability,’ as envisioned by the Michigan Good Food Charter.

Lindsey Scalera

Through strengthened coordination, Michigan is well-positioned to cultivate more resilient, equitable, and community-driven food systems. By aligning grassroots leadership, policy expertise, and long-term Charter strategies, Michigan can better respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

**Read the
Michigan
Good Food
Charter**

Food System Infrastructure, Planning and Policy

From connecting local food policy council members to convening organizers of food systems plans, CRFS works with people and communities that turn ideas into actions to support resilient food systems nationwide.

Highlights from 2025:

- **Michigan Local Food Council Network (MLFCN) and Michigan Good Food Charter Council:** Following over a decade of collaborative infrastructure building, the [MLFCN](#) and the [Michigan Good Food Charter Council](#) joined forces to help individuals, councils, and organizations develop effective advocacy skills. CRFS coordinates and collaborates with these partners across the state, ensuring shared strategies are aligned with action towards the goals of the Michigan Good Food Charter.
- **Findings of the 2025 National Food Hub Survey:** CRFS conducted the 6th iteration of the [National Food Hub Survey](#), in partnership with the [University of Michigan Program Evaluation Group](#). With 100 food hub responses from 27 states and the District of Columbia, the findings highlighted shared perspectives on operational models, financial viability and needs, and the impact of food hubs have on their communities, particularly farmers. Key findings and recommendations were also published to support policy development and technical assistance support for hubs.



40+ participants
attended a Legislative
Education Day hosted
by MLFCN at the
Michigan State Capitol
in February 2025

Steph Glidden, Capitol Services



- **Statewide and Regional Food Systems Plans National Community of Practice:** Food systems plans are unique to their geopolitical area and can help foster more resilient food systems. In 2025, CRFS hosted a co-design process to form and launch the [Statewide and Regional Food Systems Plans National Community of Practice](#). This group brings together leaders from across the U.S. to increase collective knowledge and capacity to collaborate and strengthen local and regional food systems.
- **Michigan Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA):** To understand the impact of the USDA-funded Michigan LFPA program, CRFS and [JFM Consulting Group](#) completed an evaluation study on behalf of the [Michigan Department of Education](#) and its seven distribution partners. Farmers supplying food to the program stated they improved their operations, expanded market opportunities, and increased statewide distribution of healthy, nutritious foods. The program reduced challenges with transportation, storage, and labor, as well as rising production costs.

Looking ahead,
CRFS will continue
collaborating with
communities to
develop Good Food
systems for all.



“

It was a privilege to work alongside MDE and JFM consulting and Jamie Rahrig to evaluate the hard work of our partners in the field who worked to get local, farm fresh food to communities.

May Tsupros



Farm and Food Business Development

We acknowledge that inequities in entrepreneurship and our food economies exist. CRFS meets food and farm business owners where they are to build more connected, equitable, and regenerative food systems. By providing accessible assistance to businesses in Michigan and across the U.S. — including food hubs, incubator kitchens, packaged foods makers, food trucks, and farmers — we aim to support entrepreneurs to launch and grow their businesses, create jobs, and bring healthy food to their communities.

Highlights from 2025:

- CRFS coordinated statewide networks for food business owners to engage in strategic planning discussions, increase connections, and streamline access to resources. Focused on greater food systems resilience, these are:
 - [Michigan Food Hub Network](#), co-coordinated with Lewis Hughes of [Michigan State University Extension](#), which has evolved to meet the needs and priorities of 40+ Michigan-based food hubs, as well as the increasing demand for local foods.
 - [Michigan Incubator Kitchen Network](#), which supported 40+ shared-use commercial kitchens and their communities of food business entrepreneurs.
- Through the USDA-funded [Great Lakes Midwest Regional Food Business Center](#), we worked with regional partners to:
 - support over 890 entrepreneurs across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin with approachable assistance, connections, and resources.
 - co-host quarterly virtual workshops with the [Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition](#) on farm business recordkeeping, as well as packaging and marketing value-added products, specifically designed for Tribal producers in the Great Lakes region.

CRFS and our partners strive to decrease barriers that exist in food and farm business ecosystems.

Photo Credit, Mel Hill, Michigan Good Food Fund Pitch C





“

Food and farm businesses thrive when support is tailored to their unique needs — and it's through strong partnerships that this kind of responsive, impactful assistance becomes possible.

Jamie Rahrig

- CRFS conducted an assessment of Michigan-based food hubs to better understand their operations, financial health, and support needs.
- Through [Michigan's Emerging Farmers](#), a cooperative program with [Michigan State University Extension](#) and [Michigan Food and Farming Systems \(MIFFS\)](#), CRFS facilitated scholarships and transportation for over 30 farmers to attend the Great Lakes Fruits, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo, with many attending for the first time.
- In collaboration with our partners including [Michigan State University Extension](#), CRFS provided customized educational materials ranging from market development to loan readiness through 10 online trainings and 12 evergreen [publications](#).
- With longtime partners, [MSU Product Center](#), [Michigan Good Food Fund](#), and [Lake Trust Credit Union](#), we provided the opportunity for Michigan food business owners to [pitch their business](#) and receive award funding.

Competition



Looking ahead, we will continue to collaborate with community partners to provide equitable and responsive assistance that is accessible to food and farm businesses owners. We aim to increase access to market channels for values-based procurement, allowing these entrepreneurs to nurture and strengthen their communities, the land, and the interconnections between them.

Farm to Early Care and Education, School, and Institution

Through the [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#), [Michigan Farm to School](#), and the [Michigan Farm to Early Care and Education](#) initiatives, CRFS has long helped people across the farm to institution supply chain learn, connect, and collaborate. Driven to increase farm business viability and access to healthy foods for eaters of all ages, these programs support stronger, more resilient food systems in Michigan and beyond.

Highlights from 2025:

- CRFS welcomed a new team member, Julie Lehman, to support farm to youth efforts across networks and programs.
- CRFS served as the Michigan state lead for the USDA-funded [Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub](#), coordinated by [Illinois Public Health Institute](#). Initially launched in 2023, we provided support to this program's Michigan grantees: [Partridge Creek Farm](#) in Ishpeming, MI, and [Kalamazoo Valley Community College ValleyHub](#), while also promoting the opportunity for a second round of funding and offering grant writing assistance to applicants across the state.
- In collaboration with the [Michigan Department of Education](#), [Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities](#), and the [National Kidney Foundation of Michigan](#), CRFS acted as the backbone organization for this group's application into [Shelburne Farms' Farm to School Institute Adaptation Program](#). Michigan was one of four states to be accepted into this competitive, year-long cohort to develop a statewide institute training.
- In August, CRFS co-hosted the [Plant, Grow, Share: A Farm to ECE Workshop Series](#) in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. This free, four-day virtual series shared practical strategies to introduce young children to gardening, nutrition, and local food systems, while fostering community connections.

According to a [2022-2023 survey](#), 79% of Michigan food service directors reported purchasing and serving locally sourced food, up from 54% in 2014-2015.

In 2025, new needs emerged for farm to school and ECE advocates across the region, including notable changes to available funding, such as the loss of the state-funded 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms; and the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance, Local Food for Schools, and Regional Food Business Center programs.

To determine our path forward, we hosted:

- 12 national conversations,
- 2 statewide listening sessions, and
- 1 statewide survey.

We gathered input from nearly 100 individuals through Michigan stakeholder meetings. This led to the conclusion to combine the efforts of Michigan Farm to School and Michigan Farm to ECE Network through a newly launched [Michigan Farm to School and Early Care Network in 2026](#).

The Michigan Farm to Institution Network (MFIN) held space in 2025 to build off the [2022 MFIN Framework](#), re-strategize and anchor into the Michigan Good Food Charter, and now proceeds in an updated direction.



Photo Credits, Paige Fleming



“The depth and longevity of Michigan’s Farm to School and Farm to ECE work has helped us stay connected through meaningful collaborations as we navigate a changing landscape.

Julie Lehman

Looking ahead, we look forward to engaging in powerful community-led discussions to grow momentum in the youth food and nutrition landscape. We are eager to grow school food and farmer opportunities in the years to come!

CRFS in Action: **Ten Cents a Meal**



Photo Credits, Sarah Rypma

Arising as an agenda priority in the [2010 Michigan Good Food Charter](#), [10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms](#) (10 Cents a Meal) launched as a state-funded, regional local food purchasing incentive in 2016. Continuously funded from 2016-2025, this program evolved over time to meet the needs of its participants and stakeholders, and ultimately work to meet the program goals outlined in legislation:

- **improving daily nutrition and eating habits for children through school and childcare settings, and**
- **investing in Michigan's agriculture and local food business economy.**

10 Cents a Meal works by reimbursing the cost of fresh or minimally processed Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans used in meals and educational activities for children at participating K-12 schools, child feeding sites, and early care facilities. The 2024-2025 program year marked the first year that participating food program managers were able to use up to 25% of their grant amount to pay for associated transportation and labor costs.

Since the program's inception, 10 Cents a Meal has been administered by the [Michigan Department of Education](#) (MDE) and supported by a core team of organizational partners: [Groundwork](#), [Center for Resilient Communities](#), [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (MDARD), and [CRFS](#). Over time, all partners contributed to relationship building and program growth by providing technical assistance and training to participants, including both grantees and farmers.

Consistent program evaluation through 2025, led by CRFS and supported by MDE, has also contributed to increased

program impact. The [annual evaluation reports](#) provide insights from grantees about what is working, challenges, and recommendations for program improvements. When 10 Cents a Meal was not funded for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by the Michigan legislature, the evaluation results were used by members of the [Michigan Local Food Council Network](#) and the 10 Cents a Meal Coalition led by Groundwork Center to educate policymakers and community advocates. **The program is now funded for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.**

10 Cents a Meal and its evaluation have served as a model for other states to design their own local food purchasing incentive programs. Through state investment and stakeholder engagement, **this program has consistently proven to be a win for Michigan kids, Michigan farmers, and the Michigan economy.**



It's a small investment for changing the school food system long term.

**Betsy
Rosenbluth,
Vermont FEED**

[Explore 10 Cents a Meal evaluation reports here.](#)

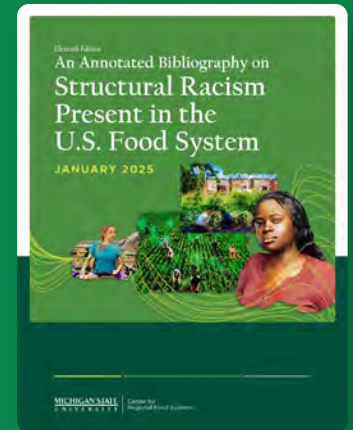
2024-2025 10 Cents a Meal Program **At a Glance**

- **~600,000 Michigan children** reached
- **251 grantees**, including school districts, early care and education sites, and childcare sponsors
- **64 out of 83 counties** had participating grantees
- **297 Michigan farms** supplied eligible Michigan-grown foods
- **~\$7 million** spent on Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans
- **\$11.9 million** in total estimated economic impact, per the USDA Local Food Impact Calculator

[Source: Presentation on Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Natural Resources and Agriculture 03-18-26](#)

CRFS in action: **Annotated Bibliography**

on Structural Racism Present
in the U.S. Food System



An *Annotated Bibliography on Structural Racism Present in the U.S. Food System* (ABSR) provides a literature compilation of research, outreach, and opinion on structural racism in the food system for the practitioner, researcher, educator, and advocate. The U.S. food system is an apt example of how public and private institutions have upheld policies and practices for centuries that continue to disadvantage people of color in this country. The ABSR identifies literature on a variety of topics, including:

- **unequal access to land, capital, markets, and decision-making power for Black and Brown farmers;**
- **higher rates of food insecurity and poorer health outcomes for communities of color;**
- **food sovereignty and efforts by Indigenous communities to reclaim cultural foodways; and**
- **conditions for food and agricultural laborers.**

The ABSR is typically updated on an annual basis through public requests for suggested citations. Co-authors have included MSU undergraduate and graduate students, as well as CRFS staff who have coordinated this work. Over the years, the authors have implemented changes to make the ABSR more inclusive, accessible, and useful, such as including digital object identifier (DOI) hyperlinks for publications; making the resources [available on Zotero](#), a free, online citation management tool; and organizing the resources into thematic categories (implemented in the 3rd, 5th, and 11th editions, respectively).



The [ABSR] brings together the wisdom produced by responsible knowledge producers to empower individuals and communities to reckon with structures, systems, and institutions.

**Food systems
scholar-practitioner**

- 11th Edition, since 2015
- 700+ Citations and Annotations
- Most Viewed and Downloaded Resource of 2025

Looking ahead, CRFS is currently working on two publications to synthesize the substantial body of knowledge outlined in the ABSR. By addressing specific questions about the work being done in this field, we aim to understand what the research is saying about structural racism in the U.S. food system and how we can support work to dismantle it.



What's Next for CRFS?

Regenerating Ecosystems in a Good Food System Infrastructure



Dr. Judith Barry

When I joined CRFS in 2012, the first iteration of the Michigan Good Food Charter (the Charter) had recently been published by colleagues in our CRFS group and other statewide partners. The Charter outlined a set of goals, informed by a collective voice of many community and agricultural stakeholders.

One of my first tasks, alongside my CRFS colleagues, was to co-design strategies with incredible food system leaders to drive work that would support the goals of the Charter.

What ensued over the next 14 years, thanks to the relentless work of statewide and national food systems leaders, has been a transformation in how our state thinks about food security, economies, agriculture, communities and ecology.

A good food system infrastructure has been formed. Networks are collectively delivering impactful change. Organizing and education measures are evolving, to grow, move and procure food into Michigan communities. Policies at the state and local level have been debated, informed, and implemented. Funding and capital at the federal, state, and local levels have been assigned to support systems-wide efforts. CRFS has played its part in this by providing backbone leadership in programs across the state and country, bringing innovation and grassroots thinking to food systems.

It amazes me how far Michigan has come. But the truth is, we have only just begun. People are still nutritionally insecure, agriculture is clamoring to adjust to environmental challenges, distribution strategies are in need of investment, and businesses are adapting. As a state, we organized to come together with mutual goals, but now our task is to align our food system with the health of all humans, soils, the environment, agriculture, and economies in a regenerative way.

Our CRFS team recognizes the unwavering efforts of communities and food systems advocates in Michigan and across the country. Collectively, we have the knowledge to design, the power to change, and the potential to transform a food system that regenerates people, the planet, and the system.

Let's regenerate!

Jude

As CRFS looks forward,
our strategic focus areas will include:

FOOD SYSTEMS REGENERATION AND RESILIENCY ROOTED IN COMMUNITY POWER



- Expanding innovative and all-inclusive business and technical assistance programs
- Informing policy and expanding grassroots food policy leadership and education
- Building trusted connections to build new market opportunities
- Prioritizing our partnerships to expand our systems approach

REGENERATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS RESEARCH INTO ACTION



- Facilitating the extraordinary expertise of our MSU research base to collectively address systems-wide food value chain challenges that include environmental, nutritional, business, agricultural, and social sciences
- Evaluating, surveying and providing educational resources for nationwide and statewide food systems programming, such as food hubs and national procurement programs

SUPPORT FOR REGENERATIVE FOOD AND FARM ECOLOGIES



- Partnerships and programs that support just, regenerative food systems that allow communities and ecosystems to prosper

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PLEASE JOIN US IN BUILDING
REGENERATIVE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS!**

GET INVOLVED!

STAY IN TOUCH!

SUPPORT OUR WORK!

LEARN MORE AT [FOODSYSTEMS.MSU.EDU](https://foodsystems.msu.edu)

Thanks & Acknowledgments

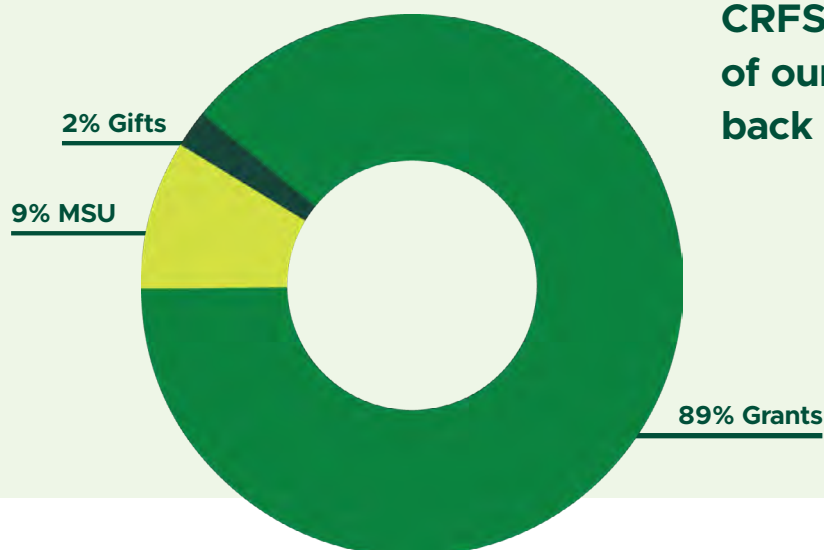
Our Funders

While we are housed within a University, CRFS is over 90% grant funded by private foundations, federal agencies, and state departments. We are thankful to these generous funders who continue to make our work possible.

- Center for Good Food Purchasing
- Illinois Public Health Institute
- Lake Trust Credit Union
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- Michigan State University Extension
- National Kidney Foundation of Michigan
- Shelburne Farms
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service
- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Additionally, we are grateful to individual donors who personally support our mission to develop, regionally integrated, sustainable food systems. Your contributions keep us grounded and driven to achieve lasting change across the region.

Funding at a glance



CRFS shared 20% of our total income back to partners

Our Partners

Our approach to resilient food systems outreach is built through, and driven by, community partnerships and collaboration. We are proud to work and learn alongside partners in Michigan and beyond. Our partners represent every facet of the greater food system and strengthen our capacity for lasting change.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO:

- MSU Extension,
- food policy councils,
- farmers and producers,
- community groups and governments
- food program managers for child nutrition programs,
- food hubs,
- lending businesses and organizations,
- food and farm businesses,
- state agencies,
- nonprofits and associations serving food systems,
- business assistance providers,
- university partners and researchers, and everyone in between.

ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS OF THE GREAT LAKES MIDWEST REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTER:

- Chicago Food Policy Action Council
- Food Finance Institute of the Universities of Wisconsin System
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Food Systems
- Northwest Indiana Food Council

Our Team

Our staff at CRFS is composed of researchers, educators, farmers, chefs, dietitians, and food systems champions. Thanks to the efforts of this caring and creative bunch, we are able to collaborate towards our goals of developing regionally integrated, sustainable food systems. **We also recognize and are very thankful for all of our former staff members — we are better for having worked with and learned from them.**

CRFS Staff

Judith Barry
Associate Director

Emma Beauchamp
Communications Strategist

Jazmin Bolan-Williamson
Food and Farm Business
Coordinator

Katy Joe DeSantis
Executive Assistant to Drs
Johnson-Chappell and Barry

Ali Farra
Director, Finance and Human
Resources

Bekah Galang
Partnership Specialist

Melissa Hill
Communications Strategist

M. Jahi Johnson-Chappell
Director, Professor, and W.K.
Kellogg Endowed Chair

Rachel Kelly
Senior Resource and Research
Development Specialist

Julie Lehman
Farm to Youth Network
Coordinator

Colleen Matts
Assistant Director for Strategy

Heather Nelson
Business Operations and
Finance Assistant

Jamie Rahrig
Director of Food and Farm
Business Support and
Development, Assistant
Director of Partnerships

Lindsey Scalera
Director of Policy and
Leadership Education,
Assistant Director of Policy

May Tsupros
Director of Farm to Institution
Programs, Assistant Director
for Programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
M. Jahi Johnson-Chappell
Director
chappe17@msu.edu

FOODSYSTEMS.MSU.EDU | 517-353-3535

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Center for
Regional Food Systems