

Local Food for Schools

December 11, 2024

Office Hours

Melinda Nguyen, Senior Nutrition Specialist

Tiffany Lankford, Nutrition Specialist

Christie Beaulieu, Nutrition Grants Specialist



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711

Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 12/11/2024
www.SquareMeals.org



Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs

Meeting Agenda

01

**Updates &
Announcements**

02

**Reallocation
Award Letters**

03

Reimbursements

04

Questions

Grant Updates



Manor ISD-Common
Market

LFS Resources

LFS Resources on SquareMeals

- www.squaremeals.org/LFS

LFS Vendor Resource List

- *Updated list of vendors used by grant recipients is posted on our website. It is not required to use these vendors; if interested in pursuing procurement from any of the vendors listed, federal, state, and loc*
- **Grantee Fund amount and reimbursement**
- *List of grantees and the amount awarded as well as how much reimbursement requested to date – updated monthly*



Announcements



La Porte ISD– The Mozzarella Company



USDA Updates

- Current LFS state agency participants will receive a new agreement
- 2 funding sources for schools and child care centers specifically
- 3-year grant term
- Finalize agreement by January 15th, 2025
- Current LFS funds must be spent first
 - \$22.3 million

Healthy Meal Incentives (HMI)



HMI Recognition Awards

- 8 Categories – Awarded on rolling basis
- **Applications close June 30, 2025**
- Visit HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org
- www.squaremeals.org/HMI

Consider the Innovation in Nutrition Education since 1 of the 2 requirements are met with LFS participation!

Breakfast Trailblazer

Lunch Trailblazer

Innovative School Lunch Makeover

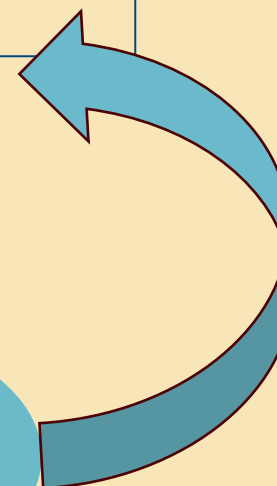
Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals

Small and/or Rural Breakfast Trailblazer

Small and/or Rural Lunch Trailblazer

Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals

Innovation in Nutrition Education ★



Reallocation Round 2



Galveston ISD– Wonderful Citrus from Hardies

Reallocation

- **Award letters will be sent to schools who qualify by December**

Reimbursements



Reimbursements

- Reimbursed \$7,117,350 of \$22,311,051
- 31% of total funds reimbursed with only 3 months remaining
- Pending \$1.3 million

Reimbursement Updates

Important Deadlines

1. Last day to make LFS purchases – **March 31, 2025**
2. Last day to submit LFS reimbursement requests – **May 9, 2025**

Notifications

- Email approval will be sent when Finance approves, the link to the Smartsheet won't allow you access.
- Reimbursement should be received within 30 days of Finance approval
- This may be delayed due to backlog
- Search for payments on Comptroller's Search State Payments

Video Training on Reimbursement Process

- Available on webpage under LFS Resources
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9Odue7mrRI>



Best Practices

- **Submit the Payment Request Form in excel spreadsheet**
- **Only fill out the “itemized invoice” tab**
- **Put invoice attachments in same order as listed on the Payment Request Form when possible**
- **Consolidate reimbursement requests if it’s the same vendor**
- **Bank statements aren’t required**
- **Submit photos and recipes**
- **For Farm to Table LLC, Common Market Invoices, you DO NOT need to separate it out by farmer/producer**

Questions?

Contact Us



Melinda Nguyen, Senior Nutrition Specialist
Tiffany Lankford, Nutrition Specialist
Christie Beaulieu, Nutrition Grant Specialist

Portal: [Reimbursement Form](#)

TDA LFS Website: www.squaremeals.org/LFS



Farm Fresh Network: www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork

Comptroller Vendor List: <https://mycpa.cpa.state.tx.us/tpasscdblsearch/>

Food and Nutrition: www.SquareMeals.org



LocalFoodGrant@texasagriculture.gov

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- 1. mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 12/11/2024
www.SquareMeals.org



Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs