

Healthy School Meals for All



In 2022, Hunger Free Colorado led a coalition of more than 100 organizations and individuals across the state to pass Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA). The program provides free school meals for all public-school students, as well as local purchasing grants, wage boosts for cafeteria workers & parent-student advisory committees to ensure meals are culturally relevant and appealing to students in each district.



It was a grassroots, community-centered effort that demonstrated the power of community organizing for change and sparked momentum across the country for universal meal programs in other states. The program will be implemented over the next two years.

2023- 2024 School Year:

FREE SCHOOL MEALS!

All public-school students in Colorado are eligible for free breakfast and lunch thanks to the passage of Healthy School Meals for All, boosting nutrition and reducing lunch line stigma for Colorado youth!



2024- 2025 School Year:

LOCAL PURCHASING GRANTS

School districts will be eligible to receive grants to purchase food from Colorado farmers and ranchers, creating a new pipeline from local food to institutions that centers community needs.

PARENT AND STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

These committees give decision-making power to students and parents to advise their district on food selection to ensure meals are culturally relevant, healthy and appealing.

WAGE BOOST GRANTS

School districts will be eligible to receive grants to boost wages and benefits for front-line cafeteria workers, improving the work environment for these critical nutrition staff.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

School districts and food system organizations will be able to apply for grants to support equipment needs, from-scratch cooking and the development of local food systems.

Hunger Free Colorado is now leading the community implementation of this trailblazing program. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact karla@hungerfreecolorado.org



Hunger Free Colorado, a statewide nonprofit organization, connects people to food resources to meet existing needs and drives policy, systems and social change to end hunger. We envision a day when every Coloradan has equitable access to the nutritious food needed to thrive and reach their full potential.

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