

# State funds will help local producers feed more Mainers!



Maine Harvest Bucks & Farm Fresh Rewards are two of Maine's Nutrition Incentive Programs that provide bonus bucks to buy fresh local produce to shoppers using SNAP/EBT.

Nutrition incentive programs are a win-win-win, promoting food security among vulnerable Mainers, boosting local agriculture, and supporting positive health outcomes and behaviors.

## What Maine's Nutrition Incentive Programs Accomplish

Boosting rural economies and small farm livelihoods by directing federal SNAP dollars to local farms and local economies.

- \$1 in SNAP spurs \$1.70 in economic growth
- \$1 in admin yields \$4-\$5 in local food access for shoppers using SNAP/EBT

Making healthy & culturally appropriate food options more affordable.

- 70% of participants report learning to cook new food items
- 90% report feeling healthier

## What Maine Needs

- In 2024, Maine's Nutrition Incentive Programs face a funding need of more than \$1.2 million.
- Federal grant funds for nutrition incentive programming require a 1:1 match. The more we can leverage, the more we can request from the USDA.
- Sustained state funding is critical for nutrition incentive programming. Many states across the US, including MA and NH, help fund nutrition incentive programs.

Maine Harvest Bucks & Farm Fresh Rewards are administered by organizations that comprise the Maine Local Food Access Network (MLFAN), a collaborative group working to expand access to local foods for all Maine people. MLFAN partners include Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Cultivating Community, St. Mary's Nutrition Center, Healthy Acadia, Maine SNAP-Ed, and other partners across Maine.

## SUPPORT LD 2093

## INCREASED FUNDING TO ADDRESS MAINE'S FOOD SECURITY AND SUPPORT NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

### \$1.2 MILLION IN 2022

*in food sales to 90+ local farms from farmers' markets, small stores, CSAs, and farm stands.*

### 15k+ MAINERS SERVED

*95%+ report eating more fruits & vegetables*

### \$1 SNAP = \$1.70+

*in economic growth*

Total Sales (SNAP & Nutrition Incentives) at participating outlets by year

