

Allowable and Unallowable Costs for the Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)

LFSIP funding may only be used for the proper procurement of allowable foods. School food authorities (SFA) cannot request direct or indirect costs associated with developing or administering the LFSIP.

Allowable foods that may be purchased with federal LFSIP funds must meet the definitions of local, domestic, and unprocessed or minimally processed and meet the definitions included below.

Definitions

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.

Unprocessed or minimally processed foods include fruits and vegetables (including 100 percent 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 foods 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.

Small business is defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration 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.

Socially disadvantaged is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a member of a socially disadvantaged group (SDG), whose members have been subject to discrimination on basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, gender identity, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

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Allowable

Allowable foods include but are not limited to the examples below.

- Meat, poultry, or fish products that are sliced, ground, smoked, made into a jerky or “stick.”
- Items such as olive oil, hemp seed oil, honey, syrup, tea.
- Produce items such as juice, cider, salsa, marinara sauce, and sauerkraut. Juice can only contain one produce item and cannot be a blend of multiple produce items.
- Bean, pea, lentil, and legume items such as tofu, tempeh, and nut butters.
- Dairy products such as sour cream, cottage cheese, kefir, and butter.

SFAs may purchase these foods with LFSIP funds.

Unallowable

Foods that are generally understood to be significantly processed or prepared are unallowable. Examples of unallowable products include:

- baked goods such as breads, muffins, or crackers;
- prepackaged sandwiches or meals;
- other prepared and/or pre-cooked items that come ready-to-eat or that require no further preparation beyond heating (e.g. chicken nuggets, fish sticks, and pre-made pizzas); and
- any product where 100 percent of the ingredients do not meet the local definition or contain additional additives, flavors or colorings.

SFAs cannot purchase these foods with LFSIP funds.

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For more information, visit the “[Local Foods for Schools](#)” section of the CSDE’s Farm to School webpage and [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) webpage or contact the [Farm to School](#) staff at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/farmschool/lfsip_federal_allowable_unallowable_costs.pdf.

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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/ad-3027.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

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