



Address: 480 Wilson Road, Room 172, East Lansing, MI 48824  
Website: [www.mifma.org](http://www.mifma.org) | Phone: 517-432-3381



## ACCESS TO FRESH, HEALTHY, LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

Name: Michigan residents      Age: All      Date: Today

You can help Michigan's Produce Prescription programs! Here's how:

### SUPPORT

- Provide financial support to local programs and/or the Statewide Learning Network
- Link local programs and/or the Statewide Network to potential partners and funders
- Advocate for increasing food access initiatives in your community and across the state

### ENGAGE

- Spread the word about increasing food access through your social and professional networks
- Recruit new members to the Statewide Learning Network
- Host a Statewide Learning Network meeting

### LEARN

- Attend a Statewide Learning Network meeting
- Visit [www.mifma.org/PPR](http://www.mifma.org/PPR)

The Michigan Farmers Market Association works with farmers and farmers markets across Michigan. With a guiding vision to expand food access through farmers markets, MIFMA has identified Produce Prescription programs as a crucial element of connecting residents to fresh, healthy, locally grown food in low-access areas.

Food insecurity and access to nutritious food are key factors in many chronic diseases and diet-related health conditions. By connecting patients to their local farmers market via healthcare providers and other creative partnerships, Produce Prescription programs work to address such conditions by increasing access to nutritious food and promoting healthy eating behaviors.

Refills: Lifetime

Prescribed by: The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA)

## **BACKGROUND:**

With a desire to support ongoing food access work through local farmers markets, in 2017 the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) created a statewide learning network of Produce Prescription programs. At the time, a number of programs were beginning to form across the state, and it was clear these programs varied greatly in size, scope, and operating procedures. As a result, the Produce Prescription Statewide Learning Network was developed out of a desire to help programs grow, mature, and gain a better understanding of the impact these programs could have on community health through farmers markets.

## **WHY:**

Programs can vary widely in scope and execution; the common elements of Produce Prescription programs consist of healthcare providers prescribing fruits and vegetable to their clients and clients filling these prescriptions at a participating farmers markets and/or farm stands through the redemption of incentives. Many programs also include educational activities related to food, nutrition, cooking, gardening, and other related topics.

## **WHO:**

With facilitation spearheaded by MIFMA, the Produce Prescription Statewide Learning Network is comprised of program implementers, farmers market managers and staff, health care organizations, clinicians, and others that support these efforts.

## **THE PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION STATEWIDE LEARNING NETWORK STRIVES TO:**

- Increase awareness about programming and impacts across Michigan
- Facilitate collaboration and build partnerships between programs
- Develop and expand the use of shared measurement strategies such as standardized evaluation
- Identify funding models that provide long-term support for increasing access to healthy foods for programs like Produce Prescription
- Identify legislative, institutional, and organizational policies that may need to be removed, updated or introduced to support Produce Prescription programming

## **WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH STATEWIDE LEARNING NETWORK?**

- Holding quarterly virtual meetings
- Continuing Network recruitment efforts
- Sharing information about best practices and potential funding sources



## **CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:**

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