

THE LANDSCAPE OF PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS IN MICHIGAN (2017-2021): EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Produce Prescription (PPR) style programs are interventions that support healthy behavior change for individuals and families through partnerships among healthcare and other providers who focus on supporting healthy eating – like farmers and farmers markets. Over the course of the last seven years, Produce Prescription

programs have experienced extensive growth in the number, size, and scope of programs in Michigan; starting from the Washtenaw County Prescription for Health program in 2008 and expanding to more than twenty individual programs across the state by 2021.

22

Produce Prescription Programs in Michigan operated between 2017-2021.

16

Programs were active in 2021.

40 (48%)

Michigan counties with programs.



WELCOME

65+

Partnerships were formed with farmers markets, farm stands, grocery stores, mobile markets, and food pantries providing increased access to fruits and vegetables.

11



Programs have been supported by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.



95%

Programs offered nutrition education sessions, health coaching, or nutrition handouts.

The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) has tracked program growth and expansion and assembled a diverse group of individuals, organizations, and program implementers invested in this intervention strategy in the Produce Prescription Statewide Learning Network.¹ The Network was developed out of a shared desire to help programs grow, mature, and gain a better understanding of the impact such programs can have on community health and the local food system. The Network aims to bring together partners to discuss a wide range of topics such as evaluation, redemption, implementation, funding, sustainability, and much more. A current focus for the Produce Prescription Statewide Learning Network is the intention to create sustainable funding models for this intervention through private insurance coverage and/or Medicaid or Medicare expansion.

Further Readings and Additional Resources

[Produce Prescription Programs: Health Impacts of Fruit and Vegetable Consumption report](#)

[Produce Prescription Programs: 2017 – 2021 Descriptive Assessment and Cost Analysis of Michigan’s Programs](#)

[Prescription for Health Programs in Michigan: An Overview and Summary of Best Practices](#)

Find these reports and more at [MIFMA.org/PPR](https://mifma.org/ppr).

¹Formally known as the Prescription for Health Statewide Learning Network.

Calls to Action

TAKE ACTION

- Educate state and federal policymakers, healthcare organizations/workers, and private health insurance providers about the benefits of Produce Prescription programs
- Join and/or recruit new members to the Statewide Learning Network to increase participation from organizations, regions and/or, individuals, etc. who may not yet be represented in the Network

ENGAGE WITH PROGRAMS

- Work with a program to collect standardized metrics that can be used to support the sector in Michigan²
- Connect with what others across the country are doing at the federal level to support PPR programs, or engage with other states who have been successful in garnering state support for their program
- Link local programs and/or the Statewide Network to potential partners and/or funders

SUPPORT OUTREACH

- Educate policy makers on, and in order to influence state policies that could include or provide coverage for, Produce Prescription style benefits for Michiganders who are at risk of having or suffering from a diet-related chronic disease
- Advocate for increasing food access initiatives in your community and across the state



The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) is a statewide, member-based association that places equity at the forefront of supporting the viability of community-driven marketplaces so that they can connect ALL consumers to local farms and businesses. The full report provides an overview of Michigan Produce Prescription programs, partners, challenges and opportunities between 2017 and 2021. This project was funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Learn More

To learn more about these programs and resources, visit MIFMA.org/PPR or contact Bella Pagogna, MIFMA Produce Prescription Manager, at bella@mifma.org and Ashley Wenger, MIFMA Programs Manager, at ashley@mifma.org.

²A standardized Pre/Post Program Evaluation Tool for adults participating in a PPR program is available through MIFMA; to access this tool reach out to office@mifma.org.