

Date of Hearing: April 9, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Esmeralda Soria, Chair  
AJR 6 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Introduced March 26, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Child nutrition: federal programs: funding cuts

**SUMMARY:** This resolution would call on the state’s Representatives in Congress to continue to support investments in the federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care program and ask the President of the United States to work with Congress to support family farmers who produce fresh, locally grown food for school meals. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings and declarations:

- 1) Over 30 million children eat school lunch every day nationwide; and, healthy schools meals ensure children are well nourished; which contributes to better academic achievement and higher school attendance rates.
- 2) Farming and related industries employ more than 22.1 million people, making up over 10.4 percent of employment in the United States.
- 3) California is the nation’s leader in agricultural exports, shipping \$23.6 billion in food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2022, which represents a 4.4 percent increase from the previous year.
- 4) The federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program was established to build a more resilient food supply chain and has assisted in connecting hundreds of California farms, schools, and food banks, leading to revenues for farmers, growers, and other food producers, while creating more jobs for food system workers.
- 5) In 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture allocated over \$23 million in LFSCC funding to the State Department of Education from the Commodity Credit Corporation, providing funds to 319 school food authorities. Those funds helped schools purchase local, regional, and state-grown food at the same time supporting local farms, enhancing access to nutritious meals, and help stabilize local food systems.
- 6) March 7, 2025, the Trump Administration canceled over \$70 million in anticipated LFSCC program funding for the current year and canceled over \$1 billion nationally for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program.
- 7) Research shows that each dollar invested in local food systems generates an additional \$2.16 in economic activity, which would indicate that canceling \$70 million in funding could result in an estimated loss exceeding \$150 million in economic activity across the state.
- 8) The loss of federal investments jeopardizes the economic viability of farmers and food producers in California who are relying on these institutional markets.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

In December 2021, Agricultural Marketing Services launched the Local Food for Schools (LFS) program as part of a suite of federal COVID-19 relief programs to help states address supply chain disruptions and boost local and regional food systems. The first round of LFS provided \$200 million in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in non-competitive funding to state agencies through cooperative agreements. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia benefitted from this round. The funding was solely for purchases of local, unprocessed or minimally processed foods from farmers, ranchers, and small businesses, for distribution to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

In October 2024, the USDA announced it would provide \$660M for a second round of funding for the LFS program. The new round of funding mirrored the first but expanded the program to childcare. Now called LFSCC, this program would have allocated \$472M to K-12 schools and \$189M to childcare sites participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The first round targeted small businesses and “socially disadvantaged” producers, and this round prioritized “Historically Underserved” producers, farmers, fishers, and small businesses, which includes beginning, veteran, and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

This resolution calls on the federal government to restore funding for the Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program. Established to strengthen the food supply chain, the LFSCC program has connected hundreds of California farms, schools, and food banks, generating revenue for farmers, growers, and food producers while creating jobs in the food sector. Similarly, the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program enhances supply chain resilience and supports local food production by supplying food banks and other feeding organizations.

According to the author, “AJR 6 calls on the Trump Administration to restore funding for the Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program. LFSCC provides healthy, locally sourced meals to students while supporting small farmers and food producers. School meal programs play a vital role in ensuring California schoolchildren receive the nutrition needed to thrive academically and physically. Additionally, the LFSCC program strengthens local economies by creating opportunities for California’s farmers, their workers, and California’s agricultural industry as a whole. Cutting this funding threatens students’ well-being, weakens local food systems, and could cause California to lose over \$150 million in economic impact. Restoring these investments is essential to protecting California’s most vulnerable children, supporting family farmers, and maintaining a strong California economy. Our Congressional Delegation and the Trump Administration should do everything possible to prevent the damage from cutting this program.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California School Employees Association

**Opposition**

None on file

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