

Food SPICE

What is Food SPICE?

Food SPICE (Food Systems Partners Investing in Communities and Entrepreneurs) is a group of food systems stakeholders working together to strengthen the viability, resilience, and equity of Michigan regional food economies. The program connects food businesses and other food systems partners to work together to grow equitable local economies across Michigan, with a special focus in Southwest Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

- Increase local food and farm business sales and customers
- Support Black, Indigenous, and entrepreneurs of color to start small food businesses
- Build food system capacity and collaboration
- Expand local food purchasing by 20% from food retailers, institutions and distributors



Photo Credit: Jason Willis

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems advances regionally rooted food systems through applied research, education, and outreach by uniting the knowledge and experience of diverse stakeholders with that of MSU faculty and staff. Our work fosters a thriving economy, equity, and sustainability for Michigan, the nation, and the planet by advancing systems that produce food that is healthy, green, fair, and affordable.

Learn more at foodsystems.msu.edu.

Food SPICE Southwest Michigan

Food and Farm Entrepreneurs

Food SPICE coordinators can connect entrepreneurs to a pipeline of no-cost financial, business and business support consulting from our network of food systems organizations.

Many of the barriers SW Michigan entrepreneurs face are access to capital, food and farm business technical assistance and incubation, and support for financial management and growth. We have several partners to support entrepreneurs:

- Small Business Development Battle Creek
- Morning Light Business Idea Incubator
- JPG Consulting
- Can-Do Kitchen
- SW Michigan SCORE Volunteers
- Michigan Good Food Funding Lending Pipeline
- Kalamazoo ValleyHUB Food Innovation Center

Food System Partnerships

Food SPICE has community-based partners all over SW Michigan that creates a regional-approach to food and farm entrepreneur development and growth.

By connecting with our program, you will find greater access to:

- Commercial kitchens and co-manufacturing spaces
- Business consultants and counselors
- Lending institutions, crowd-sourced funding platforms, state, federal and private grant opportunities and alternative forms of financing your business.
- Networking events for food and farm entrepreneurs
- Education, workshop, certification programs in business, risk management, finance and food safety.

Get Business Support

Food SPICE can provide the technical assistance you need to help your food or farm business to start, grow and succeed!

- Business plan review
- Financial projection development
- Pre-lending counseling
- Accounting services
- Marketing services
- Product testing & nutrition labels
- Food safety education/certification
- Food systems partner connections

Build Collaborations

Food SPICE increases the readiness of entrepreneurs for commercial production, lending and business growth.

By partnering with Food SPICE you are supporting and growing a stronger base of entrepreneurs ready to make transformative food system changes.

We can collaborate with:

- Collective programming
- Shared resources
- Networking events

Connect with us to get technical assistance or join us as a community resource partner.

Contact Samantha Stokes at
stokess4@msu.edu