

# 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.

Together, we will:

- 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: Alex Palzewicz

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](https://foodsystems.msu.edu).

# Food SPICE Upper Peninsula

## Food Entrepreneurs

Food SPICE connects entrepreneurs to a pipeline of financial, business and technical assistance consulting.

U.P. entrepreneurs face collective barriers: input costs, facility access and distance from markets. That's why we're collaborating with food producer groups, coming together to address their unique challenges.

- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department
- Wiisnadaa Mnomijim "Let's Eat Good Food" Coalition
- Food Start U.P.

## Food System Organizations

Food SPICE is partnering with the U.P. Food Exchange, a coalition of regional food system partners, to increase connectivity within the Upper Peninsula food system.

Restaurants, institutions, food producers, local government, and more can participate in the food system through:

- Regional food summits
- Local events
- U.P. Food Exchange Online Marketplace

Food SPICE is working directly to develop food infrastructure, like commercial kitchens, across the U.P.

- Michigan Kitchen Incubator Network
- U.P. Kitchen Incubator Consultation
- Feasibility Studies
- Technical Assistance including market analysis, supply chain analysis and consumer studies

## 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

Want to learn more and connect with Food SPICE UP?

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