

FOOD *as* MEDICINE

Prescription for Health

MARKET MANAGER & FARMER FAQ

WHAT IS PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH?

Prescription for Health is a nutrition intervention utilizing referrals from participating health practitioners in the Upper Peninsula. Individuals who are at risk for or diagnosed with a chronic health condition and face economic barriers to food access may enroll into the program which provides monthly vouchers to spend on fresh produce at a participating area farmers market. Participants are also given access to free educational programming about food and cooking that can help them earn additional vouchers.

How much are the vouchers worth?

Each voucher is worth \$1. Participants will receive \$15 per week. The total amount of vouchers for the month are mailed directly to participants no later than the 15th. There will also be opportunities for participants to earn more vouchers by attending educational events sponsored by the Prescription for Health team. Visit www.upcap.org or Dial 2-1-1 for a list of events.

What can be purchased with the vouchers?

Only fresh produce may be purchased in this program. Eggs, meat, honey, bread, plant starts, and prepared foods are not eligible under this program.

Who can accept vouchers? Where can they be spent?

Any produce vendor at participating markets may accept the vouchers. The vouchers are not individualized for each market, a participant could spend the vouchers at any of the participating markets. These markets include:

BAY MILLS/BRIMLEY FARMERS MARKET 

DEPOT PARK FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET IN IRONWOOD 

DOWNTOWN MARQUETTE FARMERS MARKET 

GLADSTONE FARMERS MARKET

HANCOCK TORI & FARMERS MARKET 


HOUGHTON FARMERS MARKET 

MAIN STREET CALUMET FARMERS MARKET 

MUNISING FARMERS MARKET 

NEWBERRY FARMERS MARKET

SAULT STE. MARIE FARMERS MARKET 

Markets marked with a  accept some combination of food assistance programs, which may or may not include EBT/Bridge Cards, WIC or Senior Fresh, or other local programming.

What if their purchase is not for an exact dollar amount?

Farmers cannot make change for Prescription for Health vouchers. Since this is a program meant to alleviate food insecurity, it would be helpful if farmers

would round down to the nearest dollar or add a small item to increase the value to the next dollar. In the end though, this is at the discretion of the farmer.

Do the vouchers expire?

Vouchers will expire by October 31, 2022. Participants may spend vouchers in varying amounts throughout the season, they do not expire month to month within the market season.

While enrollment in the program will mostly be in the spring and markets close at varying times, all remaining vouchers each participant was due will be mailed in bulk at the end of August. This ensures that latecomers to the program are able to spend all their dollars before their local market closes.

Participants do have the option to spend their vouchers at any farmers market until October 31, 2022.

How does the farmer receive payment?

Farmers must be sure to sign each voucher they receive, then turn in their vouchers to their market manager. Market Manager will distribute the Prescription for Health Reimbursement with all the other funds accepted at the market. Please be sure to turn in all your vouchers by the last day of your participating market. Should you find vouchers after your last market is over, please contact Sarah at 906-225-0671 ext. 723.

What does the market manager have to do?

Market managers will accept the vouchers from farmers and record the number of vouchers turned in by each vendor. Market managers that do not currently have a food assistance program or lack the necessary receipt book to administer the program will receive the necessary materials and training. All market managers will receive pre-addressed and stamped envelopes to return vouchers at no cost to the market. These can be sent every two weeks to minimize the time farmers must wait for payment, if that is helpful. If the market manager has the capacity to check in with farms to ensure they have signed all the vouchers when they are turned in, it is appreciated.

Market Managers must return all vouchers no later than November 15, 2022.

Can farms accept vouchers at their farm or as part of their CSA payments?

Unless a CSA program is already administered in conjunction with your market, this is not an option at this time. It could possibly be an option in the future.