

An Overview of the Student Nutrition Program

Presentation to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee

March 4, 2024

What is a Student Nutrition Program?

- Universal meal and/or snack program, run locally by parents, volunteers and students, mainly operating in public schools
- Gives students access to safe, adequate, and culturally-appropriate healthy food
 - especially important for those at risk for poor nutritional intake
- Supports student learning and development over the school day
- Creates opportunities for community capacity building, volunteering, and job skills development
- Video: [Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto](#)

Program Outcomes



- Increased consumption of healthy foods
- Reduced obesity and chronic disease
- Reduced health disparities
- Reduced social isolation
- Increased attendance and class participation
- Improved test scores in math, science, reading
- Reduced dropouts
- Job skills training for students, parents, volunteers

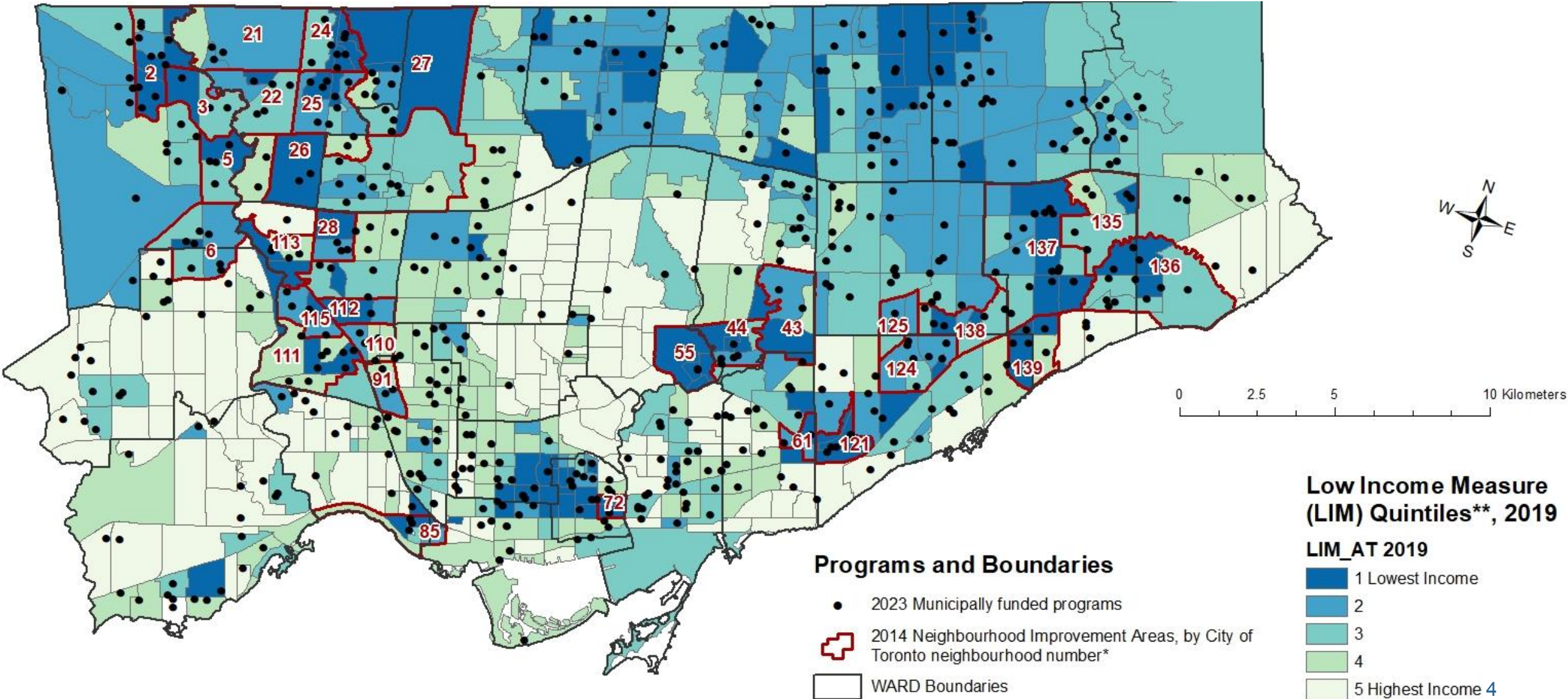
2023 Program reach

619 school communities

820 student nutrition programs

227,285 meals served per school day

Where are the programs?





A partnership of:

- *The Angel Foundation for Learning*
- *Toronto Catholic District School Board*
- *Toronto Foundation for Student Success*
- *Toronto District School Board*
- *City of Toronto - Toronto Public Health*

Roles of each partner agency



Toronto Public Health

- stewards municipal funds, chairs partnership, administers annual grant application process, provides nutrition and food safety training/expertise, nutrition quality assurance, food safety inspections

Foundations

- fundraises, administers government grants and other donations, ensures program accountability, supports local fundraising, trains coordinators to operate programs, supports volunteer recruitment, coordinates in-kind donations

School Boards

- integrates program into school day, supports program operations, provides space, maintains equipment, mobilizes parents and volunteers

Strengthen and grow student nutrition programs

- Strengthen existing programs by ensuring an annual food inflationary increase in municipal funding
- Expand program reach

Municipal Investment

- 2023: \$17.7M to support over 227,000 meals per day
- 2024: \$19.16M which includes an 8.5% food inflationary increase

\$27.48 M investment from government sources

\$16.8 M from the City of Toronto

\$8.47 M from the provincial government

\$2.2 M in one-time funding from the federal government

Funding from other sources

Student and parent contributions

Community fundraising

School board fundraising

Corporate donations

Non-monetary support

Enhanced Investment needed from Provincial and Federal Partners

Board of Health and City Council annually advocate to the federal and provincial governments:

- Requests to the Province to increase its investment to match the increased City of Toronto investment and provide additional funding to account for inflation
- Requests to the Government of Canada to provide details on progress made toward commitments, including a National School Food Policy with funding for a universal program



Thank you