



Feeding Students, Fueling Our Economy

A Bloomberg
Philanthropies Mayors
Challenge Winner

➤ Toronto is a Global Leader in Municipal Innovation

Winner

2025-2026

Mayor's Challenge

630+

Applications
Worldwide

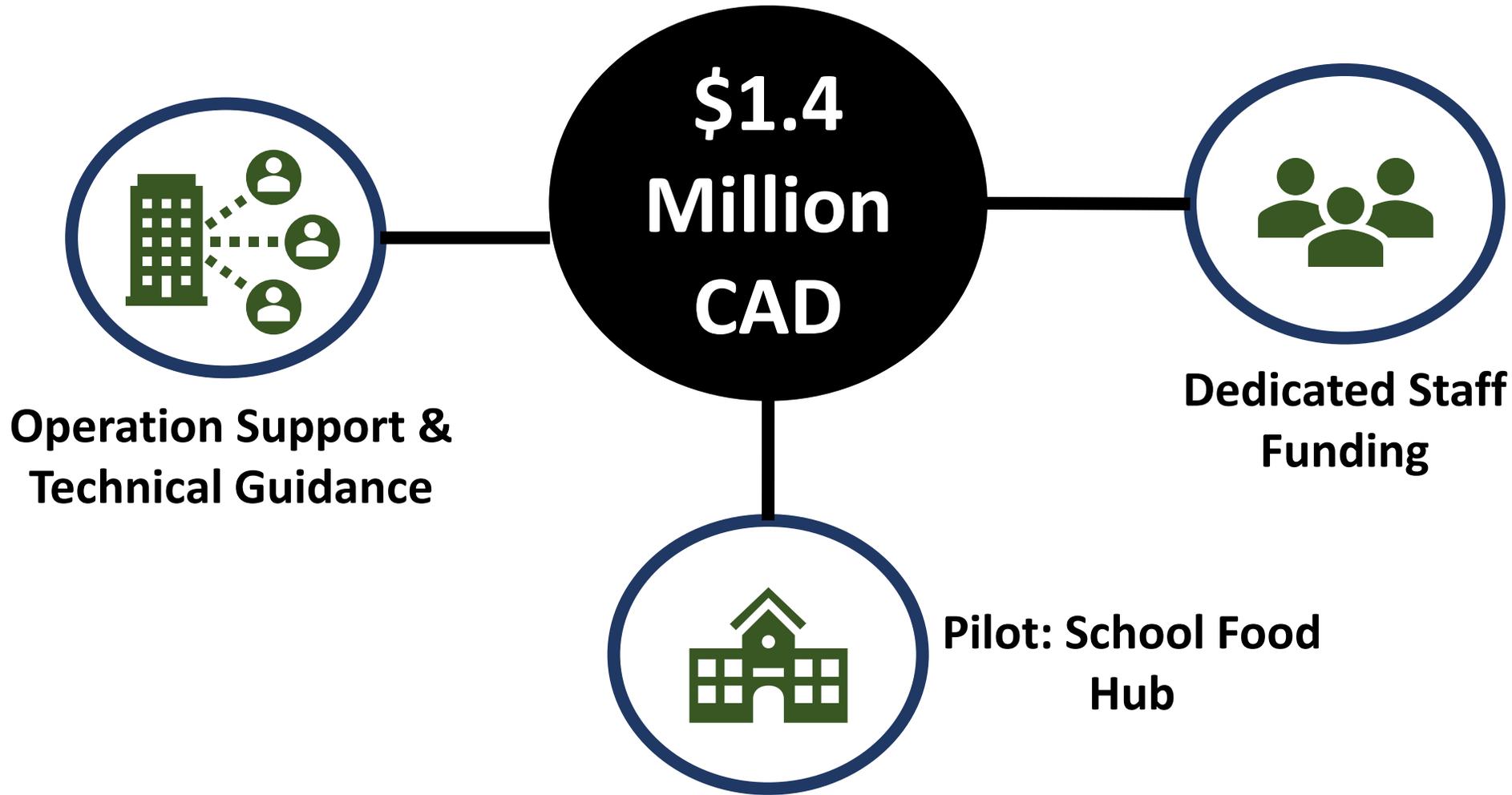
24

Winning Cities
Selected

20

Countries
Represented

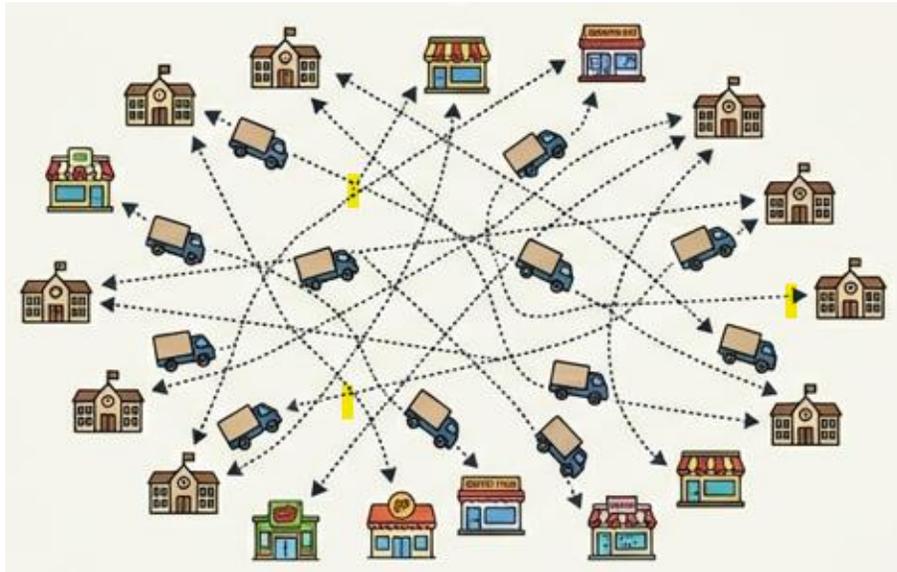
➤ **Converting Global Recognition into Local Action**



Reinforcing the vision with funding and operational expertise

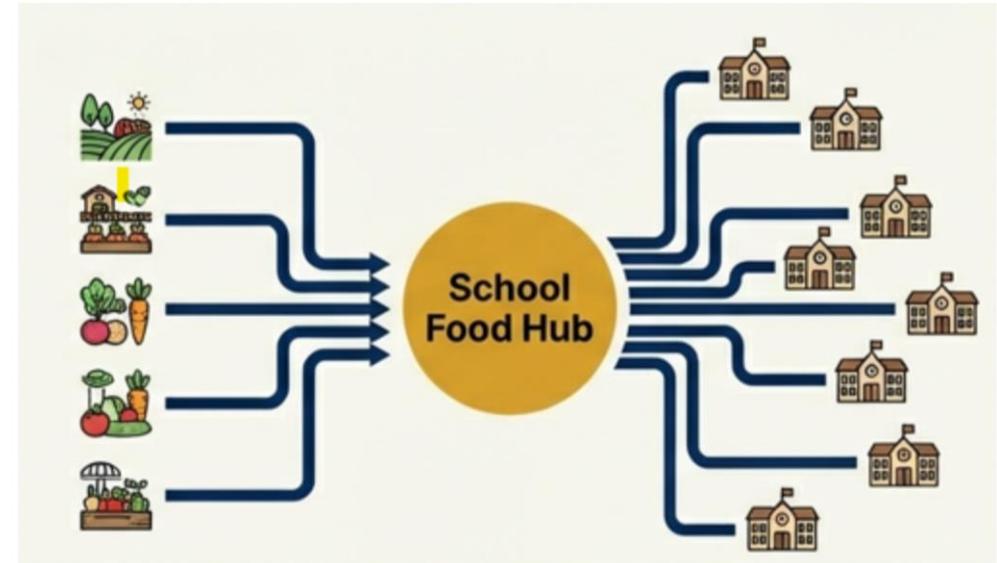
➤ Moving from Fragmentation to a Coordinated School Food Hub

Current State: Fragmented purchasing



Higher Costs & Inefficiency

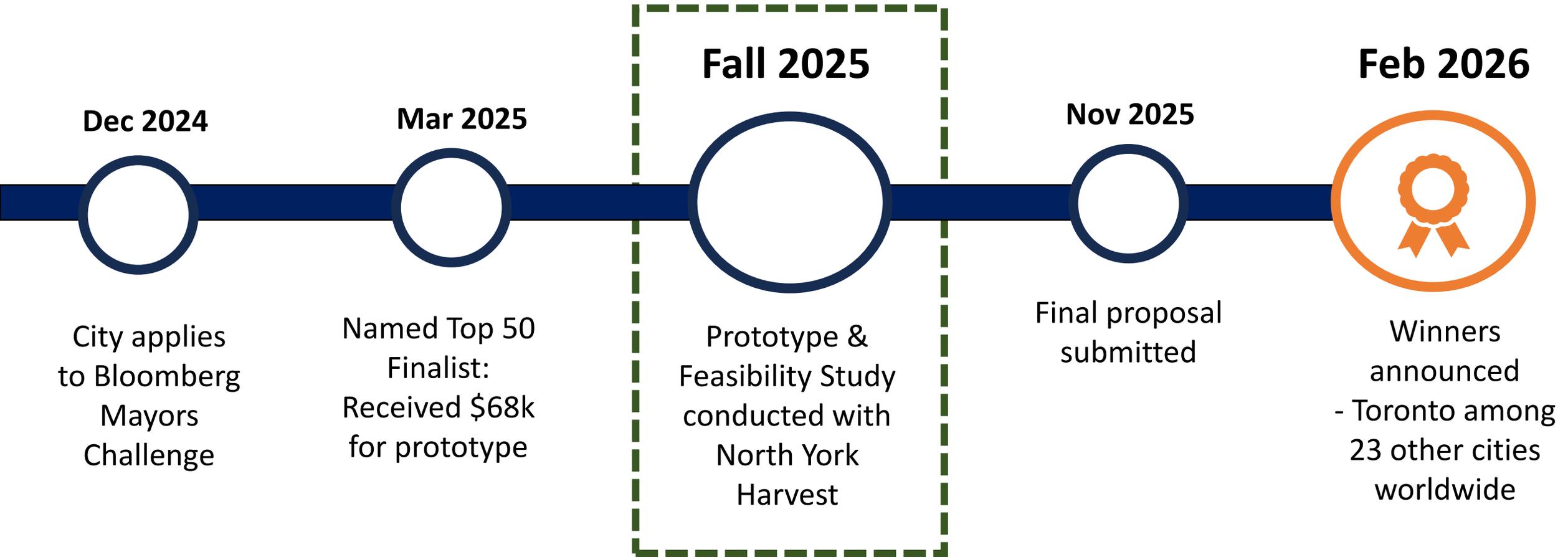
Future State: The Hub model



Coordinated Logistics

The Goal: Transform fragmented school food program buying into socially responsible coordinated bulk purchasing and logistics that bypasses retail inefficiencies, prioritizes local food systems and supports local economic development.

➤ The Journey: From Concept to Global Winner



➤ Reinvesting Cost Savings to Feed More Kids



\$177,000
in weekly
savings

**9% cost savings across
other City-funding food
programs**

The Strategy:

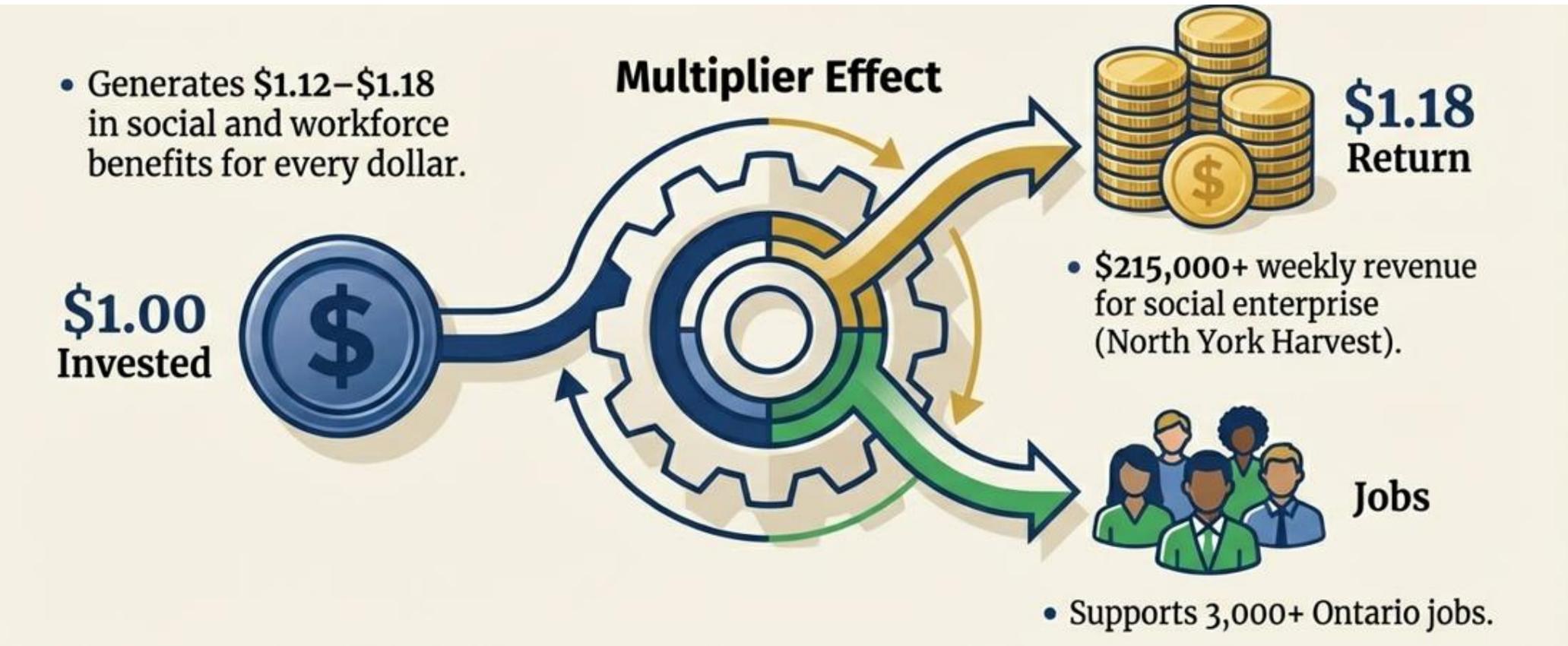
We are not cutting quality.
We are creating efficiency.

Outcome:

Savings are reinvested to
feed more students
with the same public
investment



Generating Social and Economic Return on Investment

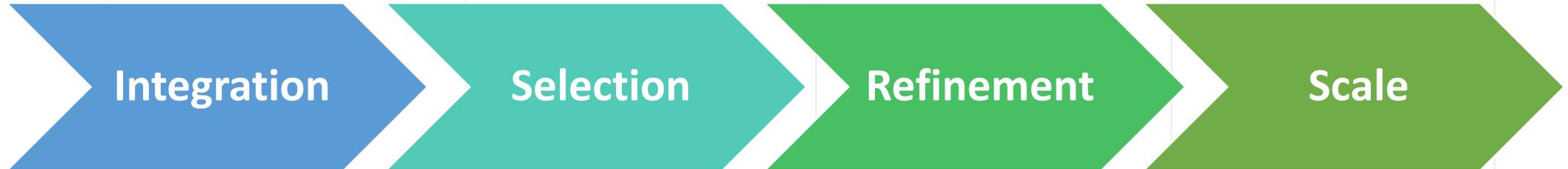


➤ **Strengthening Ontario's Food Economy**



We are using the City's purchasing power to support local supply chains

➤ The Pilot Strategy: Test, Refine, Scale



Pilot operates alongside existing Student Nutrition Programs

Small group of schools selected to test bulk-purchasing model

Real-time data monitoring to refine logistics

Validate the model for city-wide expansion

Real Relief for Toronto Families

Context: Rising costs of living create pressures on household grocery budgets.

The Mechanism: A universal program based on the School Food Hub model would ensure all students have reliable access to food at school, while reducing the financial burden on families.

The Essence: By lowering per-item food costs through the Hub, we make school food programs sustainable.



➤ Commitments to Inclusive Economic Development



- **Focus:** Support community-based food systems
- **Access:** Increases access to locally sourced food and, in some cases, culturally relevant options by engaging a diverse range of suppliers.
- **Integration:** Merges social development goals by strengthening community-based food systems beyond the school walls.

➤ **Smart Economics, Healthy School Communities**

“The Bloomberg Mayors Challenge win validates our approach: When we innovate how we purchase and deliver food, we don’t just feed a child – we strengthen our community and fuel our local economy.”

**Next Step: Launching
Pilot Phase**

Media & Contact Information

Media Relations

media@toronto.ca

Andrea Martinelli

Sr. Communications Advisor

Subject Matter Experts

Jill Cheyne

Acting Director Transformation
City Manager's Office

Jill.Cheyne@toronto.ca

Bryony Halpin

Manager, Poverty Reduction Office
Social Development

Bryony.Halpin@toronto.ca