

# Feeding Students, Fueling Our Economy

City of Toronto: A Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge Winner



Prepared for: Executive Committee  
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# ➤ Toronto is a Global Leader in Municipal Innovation

**Winner**

2025-2026

Mayor's Challenge

**630+**

Applications  
Worldwide

**24**

Winning Cities  
Selected

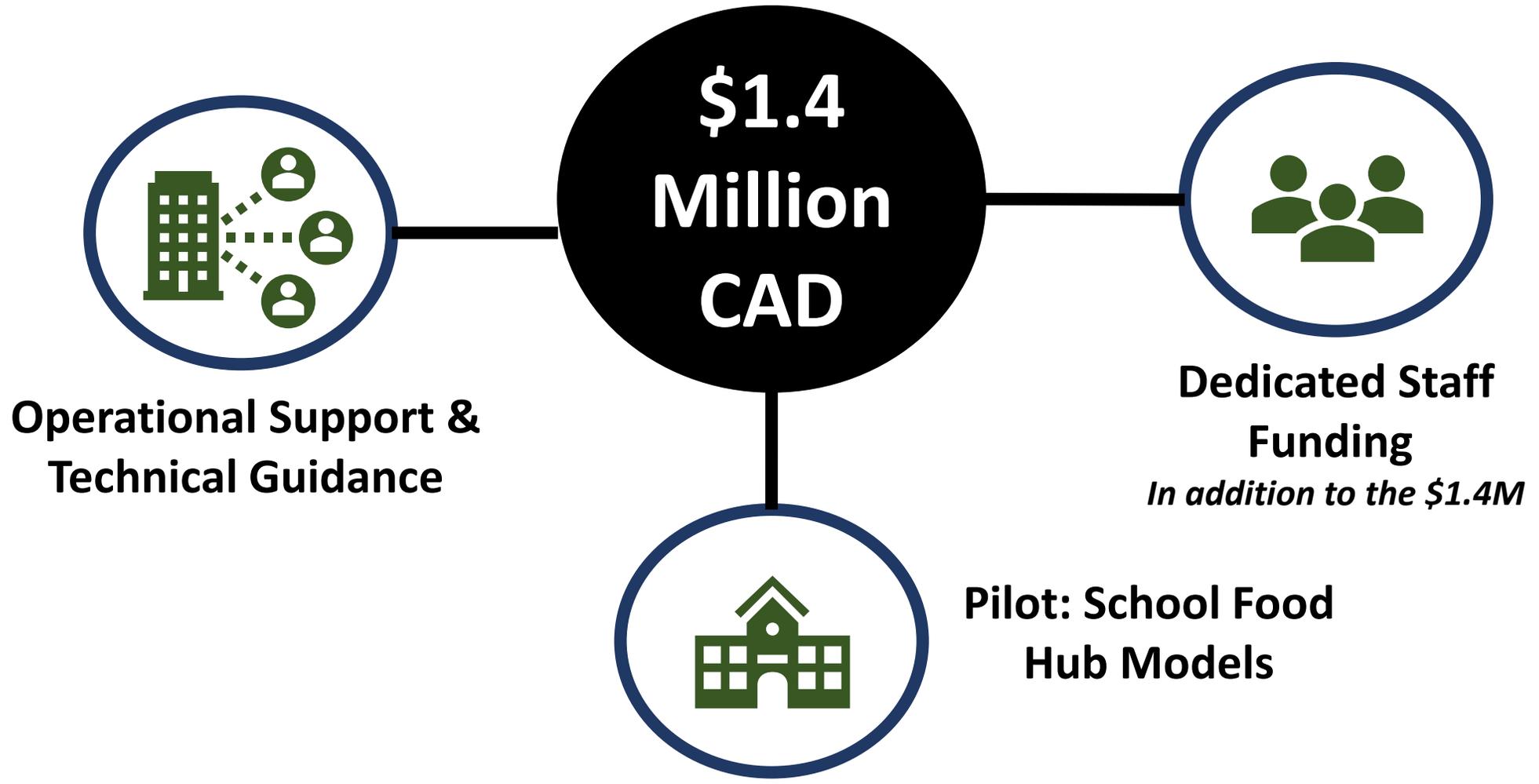
**20**

Countries  
Represented

*Selected for novelty, potential impact and implementation strength*



# ➤ Converting Global Recognition into Local Action

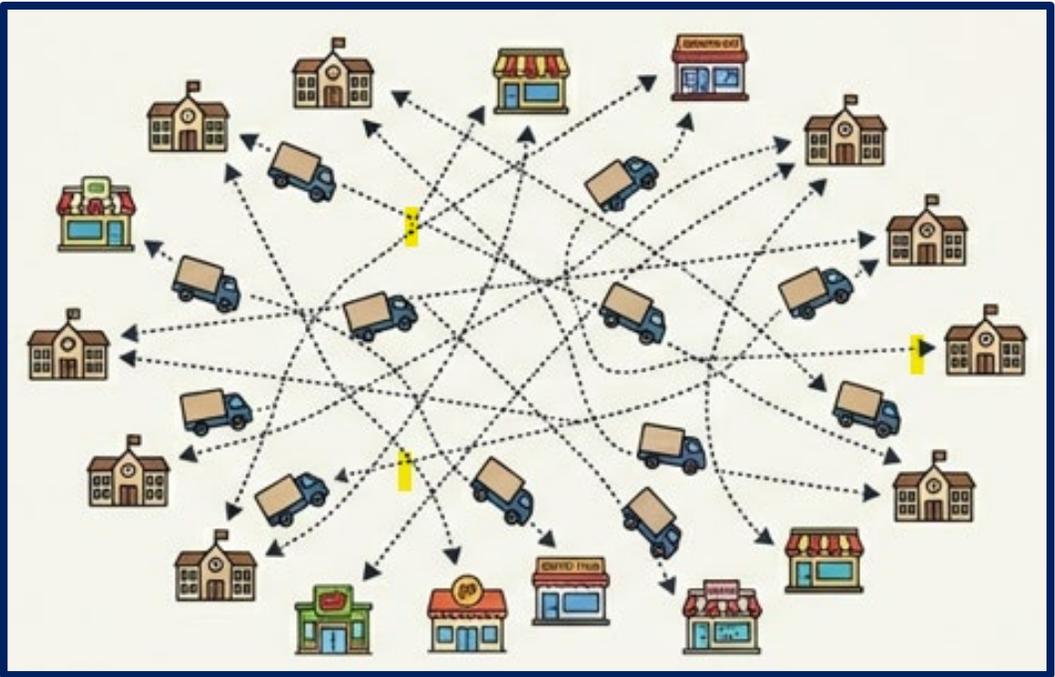


*Reinforcing the vision with funding and operational expertise*



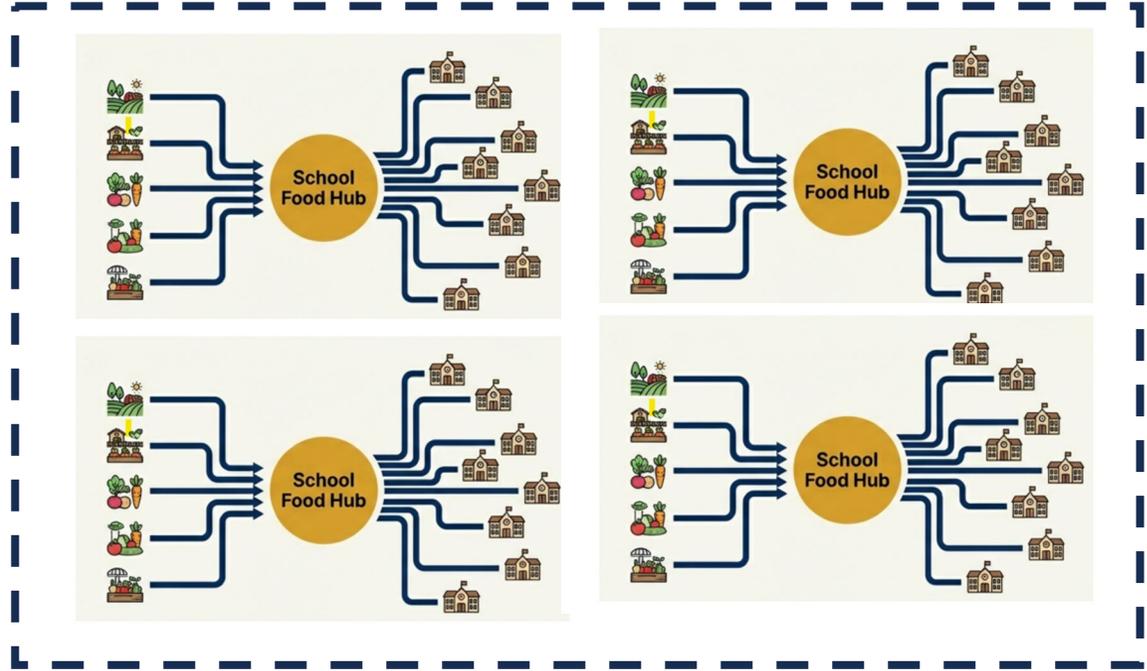
# Moving from Fragmentation to a Coordinated School Food Hub Models

### Current State: Fragmented Purchasing



**Higher Costs & Inefficiency**

### Future State: Hub Models



**Coordinated Logistics**

**The Goal:** Transform fragmented school food program buying into socially responsible, coordinated bulk purchasing and logistics that bypass retail inefficiencies, prioritize local food systems, and support local, inclusive economic development.



# ➤ Strengthening Ontario's Food Economy



*We will leverage the City's purchasing power to support local supply chains*

# The Pilot Strategy: Integrate, Test, Refine, Scale

## STAGE 1: INTEGRATION



The pilot begins by operating within existing Student Nutrition Programs to ensure seamless coordination.



## STAGE 2: SELECTION

A small group of schools is chosen to test various school food hub models.

## STAGE 3: REFINEMENT



Program staff utilize real-time data monitoring and feedback to continuously improve the models.

## STAGE 4: SCALE



The final stage validates the model to prepare for broad expansion across more schools.

# ➤ Relief for Toronto Families

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

**The Mechanism:** A universal program based on school food hub models 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 hubs, we make school food programs sustainable.



# ➤ Commitment to Inclusive Economic Development



- **Focus:** Support community-based food systems, including workforce development and support for small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Access:** Increases access to locally sourced food and, in some cases, culturally relevant options by engaging a diverse range of suppliers.
- **Integration:** Advances inclusive economic development by connecting schools with broader community food systems.

# ➤ 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.”*

# Contact Information

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