

OSPI CNS School Meal Programs Reference Sheet

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant are federal funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. Additional funds were made available from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for FY 2022. This grant provides funds for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to purchase equipment to serve higher quality meals and expand participation.

Who Can Apply?

All K-12 schools, including public, private, and tribal schools, participating in the National School Lunch Program in Washington state are eligible. All LEAs interested in equipment purchases or repairs to support school meals are encouraged to apply.

How the Grant May Be Used

- To purchase equipment to serve higher quality meals and expand participation.
- To support Farm to School efforts.
- Funds can be used toward equipment purchases or repairs of at least \$1,000. There is no upward limit for the cost of the requested equipment.
- Equipment should support school meals in one or more of the following areas:
 - scratch cooking
 - storing fresh food from local producers
 - receiving food deliveries in a more efficient manner
 - serving healthier meals
 - improving food safety
 - improving working conditions for school nutrition staff
 - providing more convenience or appeal to students
 - establishing, maintaining, or expanding the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Highlight in your application

- Why the equipment is necessary and reasonable for your operations.
- An explanation of barriers to purchasing the equipment.
- How the purchase or repair will either improve the quality of your school meals program or expand school meals participation.
- Detailed narrative about how the equipment supports grant goals and
 - Connections with Local School Wellness Policy



- Collaboration with students, families, teachers, local policy makers, and community groups with an interest in improving children’s health and wellness outcomes.

Grant Evaluation

Proposals from will be scored and ranked based on responses provided in the iGrants application. Please review the [Equipment Assistance Grant Application Information Sheet](#) for more details.

Grant Timeline and Details

- February 2, 2023 – Grant opens
- March 27, 2023– Application closes in iGrants at 4pm
- April 2023 – Awardees notified
- September 30, 2024 – Grant activities must be complete
 - Expend grant funds
 - Submit a claim for reimbursement
 - Provide supporting documentation including but not limited to delivery receipts, invoices, and proof of payment

All federal, state, and local procurement laws must be followed. All requests must meet the definition of equipment according to USDA, state regulations, or local policy. Specific information to this grant can be found in the iGrants application.

Resources

- [SP 01-2023](#)

Acronym Reference

- CNS - Child Nutrition Services
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- NSLP- National School Lunch Program
- SBP - School Breakfast Program
- OSPI - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture