

# *OSPI 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. 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. LEAs are limited to applying for a single item of equipment. Exceptions are made when a set of items are a more standard purchase, such as a set of shelving units or multiple cafeteria tables.

### **How the Grant May Be Used**

- Equipment may 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
- To support Farm-to-School efforts.
- To better utilize entitlement funding towards the storage of USDA foods.

### **Highlight in your application**

- Why the equipment is necessary and reasonable for your operations.
- What obstacles or challenges to making the purchase without the grant.
- How the purchase or repair will support your school meals program and support program goals.



## Grant Evaluation

Proposals will be scored and ranked based on responses provided in the application workbook, which can be found on the [CNS grants page](#)\*. OSPI will utilize existing data for other scoring criteria. Please review the [Equipment Assistance Grant Application Information Sheet](#) for more details.

## Grant Timeline and Details

- February 26, 2025 – Grant opens
- March 26, 2025 – Applications and applicable quotes must be submitted together to [CNSgrants@k12.wa.us](mailto:CNSgrants@k12.wa.us) by 11:59pm
- April 2025 – Awardees notified
- September 30, 2027 – Grant activities must be complete
  - Expend grant funds
  - Submit a claim for reimbursement
  - Provide supporting documentation including but not limited to photographs of equipment on site, invoices, and proof of payment

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; however, CNS may limit the total amount funded per LEA based on the total grant availability.

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. Information specific to this grant can be found in the grant application.

\*Note that iGrants, our former grants management system, will no longer be used.

## Resources

- [SP 18-2023](#)

## Acronym Reference

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