

OSPI Child Nutrition Services Grants Reference Sheet

Summer Meals for Kids Grant

The Washington State legislature provides funding for the Summer Meals for Kids grant. In 2026, there is \$100,000 available. The purpose of the grant is to expand the reach of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP offers meals to kids during the summer or when school is out of session, at schools and community sites in areas where 50% or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

This is a competitive grant for sponsors that operated SFSP in the previous year and are in good standing.

Priority Awards:

- ✓ Adding new SFSP sites
- ✓ Expanding the reach of an existing site to address a programming gap
- ✓ Programs that have never received a grant from OSPI CNS in the past

How the Grant May Be Used

- ✓ Increase the number of sites participating in the summer meal programs and/or the reach of a site.
- ✓ Increase the number of meals served in existing programs and sites.
- ✓ Begin promotion of Washington's Farm-to-Summer Week and/or Summer Crunch (July 13–17, 2026).
- ✓ Provide training to staff and volunteers to operate new equipment, conduct community outreach activities, etc.
- ✓ Improve meal quality, equipment, or small supplies used in the program.

Examples:

- ✓ Marketing materials and/or print costs, including vehicle wraps, billboard space, sandwich boards, stickers, door hangers, etc.
- ✓ Meal delivery vans/buses/food trucks.
- ✓ Portable plug-in coolers.
- ✓ Portable hand washing stations.
- ✓ Gardening equipment, taste test needs, and/or other supplies for meal site gardens that are used to provide food to the program and/or support nutrition education activities.



Grant Evaluation

Proposals will be scored and ranked based on responses provided in the SM4K 2026 Application Workbook. Please review the [Summer Meals for Kids Application Information Sheet](#) and [Summer Meals for Kids Scoring Matrix](#) for more details.

Timeline

- ✓ March 1, 2026 – Grant Application Materials are made available on the OSPI [Child Nutrition Grants](#) webpage
- ✓ March 31, 2026 – Grant Application submission ends at 5 pm PST.
- ✓ April 2026 – Awardees notified.
- ✓ June 30, 2026 – Grant activities must be complete.

Resources

- [Summer Meals for Kids Application Information Sheet](#)
- [Summer Meals for Kids Scoring Matrix](#)

Acronyms

- SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- SM4K – Summer Meals for Kids Grant