

Summer Food Service Program Rooted in Excellence Awards

The Rooted in Excellence awards recognize excellence within Child Nutrition programs in Washington state. Summer Food Service Sponsors are invited to apply for one award and may choose to apply within either the Culinary Cultivator track or the Nurturing Navigator track.

Award Categories

Culinary Cultivator track: Culturally Inclusive Meals, Farm to Summer, Menu Planning Champion, Non-Congregate Excellence, and Scratch Cooking.

Nurturing Navigator track: Leadership, Marketing and Promotion, Nutrition Education, and Partnerships and Engagement.

Key Dates

- July: Applications open
- September: Applications close
- November: Award notifications and award materials sent

Eligibility

Summer Food Service Sponsors are invited to apply for **one award**. Sponsors must be in good standing and not identified as high risk to be eligible for the awards. If you are unsure about your organization's status, please contact your program specialist.

Media Toolkit for Award Recipients

- Personalized certificate
- Digital award badge
- Press release
- Recognition on the OSPI website
- Graphics and sample text for use on social media



Frequently Asked Questions

How do we apply for an award?

Submit applications online. If you have any questions or issues with your application, please email summermeals@k12.wa.us.

When am I eligible to apply for an award?

You can apply for an award based on activities you completed during the current summer.

Will awardees receive physical awards?

Recognition award packages contain digital assets for your use, as well as physical, frame-ready signed certificates.

If I apply for the Turnip the Beet award, can I also apply for the Rooted in Excellence award?

Yes. Both awards recognize sponsors that go above and beyond, but the awards are separate from one another. Turnip the Beet is from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Rooted in Excellence award is from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

What if I'm unsure which category to apply for?

Reach out to your program specialist for guidance. They can help you determine the best fit based on your program's goals and outcomes.

Will we receive feedback if our application is not selected?

Yes. There will also be an opportunity to make changes to your application if needed.

Can we update our application after submission?

Please reach out to summermeals@k12.wa.us if you have questions about your application. You may be able to submit a new application through Alchemer.