

Rooted in Excellence Awards

Application Information

The Rooted in Excellence awards recognize excellence within school nutrition programs in Washington state. School Food Authorities (SFAs) are invited to apply for an award within either the Culinary Cultivator track or the Nurturing Navigator track. Applications are available online.

Award Categories



Key Dates

- October: Applications open
- February: Applications close
- April: Award notifications and materials sent

Eligibility

School Food Authorities (SFAs) that operate the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program are eligible to apply. SFAs 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. Participants in Power Up Your Program are encouraged to apply.

Media Toolkit for Award Recipients

- Personalized certificate
- Digital award badge
- Press release



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- 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 CNStraining@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 previous or current school year.

Are Power Up Your Program participants eligible to apply?

Yes. Power Up Your Program participants are strongly encouraged to apply. Several of the Rooted in Excellence recognition awards align with the four Power Up Your Program action pathways: Nutrition Education, Culturally Inclusive Meals, Promotion & Marketing, or Local School Wellness Policies. For more information on Power Up Your Program toolkits or access to the Canvas courses, please email CNStraining@k12.wa.us.

Will awardees receive physical awards?

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

Can individual schools apply for this award, or should we apply as a school district?

Recognition awards are given at the district or organization level, although individual schools can be highlighted in your application.

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 project'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 CNStraining@k12.wa.us if you have questions about your application. You may be able to submit a new application through Alchemer.