Connecticut State Department of Education
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

Request for Proposal (RFP)
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
Equipment Assistance Grants

Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

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RFP #972

CONNECTICUT
Education

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General Information

Background

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, (Public Law 119-4), and the 2026 Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, (Public Law 119-37), provide funds to National School Lunch Program (NSLP) state agencies to administer competitive subgrants to eligible school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and NSLP.

The NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant provides funds to NSLP State agencies to administer competitive subgrants to eligible local education agencies (LEAs), SFAs, and schools for the purchase of equipment valued at greater than $1,000. The purpose of the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant is to help ensure that schools have the equipment they need to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and also to support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP and SBP.

Since 2010, the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants have been used to modernize school kitchens nationwide, address equipment disparities in underserved areas, and promote strategies that foster healthy choices for students. In previous years, the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants have been provided to State agencies on a non-competitive basis. This current opportunity was awarded to Connecticut through a competitive process.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) stated Program Objective for this NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant opportunity is for the State agency to provide subgrants to LEAs, SFAs, and schools to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP and SBP.

The funds allow SFAs to purchase equipment that enhances the school Child Nutrition Program in the following ways:

- opportunities to impact nutrition and improve the quality of school meals;
- supporting the implementation of updated nutrition requirements for school meals as well as healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns with emphasis on serving more fruits and vegetables, which includes items purchased locally;
- address food safety considering the age of food service equipment or lack of appropriate items; and
- improve and expand participation in the NSLP and/or SBP, with the current focus on purchasing equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP and SBP.

Grant Period – October 16, 2026, through September 30, 2028

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages grant recipients, through whatever means available, to expend all of their NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant funds within the grant period. **SFAs must fully obligate their grant amounts by January 5, 2028**. Federal procurement regulations at 7 CFR § 210.21 and 2 CFR §§ 200.317-326 indicate that equipment competitively procured using these grant funds must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable. SFAs must follow all federal, state, and local procurement laws when purchasing equipment with these grant awards. Grant recipients must withdraw funds no later than sixty (60) days after the grant end date. There are no exceptions to or waivers from this requirement.

SFAs that are unable to obligate their grant amounts in full must notify the state agency by **February 4, 2028.** The unobligated funds will not be released and may be reallocated to a different applicant.

Eligible Applicants

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) awards these grants via a competitive grant process to SFAs. Priority is given to schools that did not receive a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant award within the last year.

Funding

Total funds available are $208,888. The CSDE will award grants of at least over $1,000 and up to $15,000 per SFA (see section on Overall Use of Funds for further clarification). The grant reimbursement will occur upon the SFA's submission of a Fund Request within the Connecticut eGrants Management System (eGMS).

The CSDE will make grant awards under this program based on scoring criteria (see page 19) and reserves the right to limit or prorate the award amounts based on the number and need of applicants. Grants are not final until the execution of award letters within the eGMS System. The level of funding, reporting requirements, and effective dates of the project will be set forth in the notification of the grant award.

Overall Use of Funds

For the FY 2026-28 Equipment Assistance Grant, Congress has specified that the threshold for the purchase of equipment must be greater than $1,000.

In addition, proposals may include any costs that are reasonably required to procure new equipment and place it in service. This includes delivery, installation, testing, and disposal of the old equipment. For example, the purchase of an oven for the school food service would be an allowable cost, which could include the cost of minor alterations necessary for installation or operation. However, a general renovation or extension to a food service area would fall under the category of construction costs, which is not an allowable cost of these grant funds.

As with all Federal grant funds, procurement regulations codified at 7 CFR § 210.21 and 2 CFR §§ 200.317-326 apply, and equipment competitively procured using these grant funds must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable. **SFAs are required to follow all federal, state, and local procurement laws when purchasing equipment with these grant funds** (see page 21 for Federal Requirements).

Purpose of the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants

These funds shall allow SFAs to purchase the equipment needed to meet the nutritional standards for schools. The proposal must address how the equipment improves the quality of school meals as well as the focus areas identified below:

- **SBP & NSLP:** Purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the SBP and NSLP;
- **Healthier Meals:** Projects that support healthier meal preparation and service, including equipment that increases scratch cooking capacity, expands the ability to prepare and serve fresh fruits and vegetables, improves meal presentation and appeal, and supports the incorporation of local and minimally and unprocessed foods into school meals;
- **Food Safety:** Equipment that improves the safety of food served in the school meal programs (e.g., cold, or hot holding equipment, blast chillers, refrigeration, or freezers);
- **Expand Participation:** Equipment that supports a SFA's improvement or expansion of participation in the NSLP or SBP (e.g., strategies for adopting cafeteria changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the students); and
- **Efficiency:** Equipment that improves the overall energy efficiency of the school nutrition operation which could include food storage and distribution/service (e.g., purchase of an energy efficient walk-in freezer to replace an outdated energy-demanding freezer).

Scoring Consideration

The CSDE will not score submitted proposals that do not contain written quotes for the cost of equipment and any necessary related work. During the scoring and selection process the CSDE will consider the following factors:

- purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP and SBP;
- projects that support healthier meal preparation and service, including equipment that increases scratch cooking capacity, expands the ability to prepare and serve fresh fruits and vegetables, improves meal presentation and appeal, and supports the incorporation of local and minimally and unprocessed foods into school meals;
- opportunities to realize a meaningful impact on nutrition and quality of meals (such as serving more local foods or replacing fryers with combination steamer ovens);
- age of food service equipment to be replaced or lack of appropriate items; and
- ability of the food service equipment to increase the efficiency of cafeteria operations (food access/preparation/storage/distribution/service).

Project Accountability

The CSDE will require complete accountability of the use of these grant funds, thus all grantees will submit purchase order(s) as requested in eGMS. Grantees must complete their projects and requests in eGMS **on or before September 30, 2028**. All grantees must obligate their grant amounts by **January 5, 2028**. Grantees that are unable to obligate their grant amounts in full must notify the state agency by **February 4, 2028,** and the unobligated funds will not be released.

The CSDE may reallocate available funds (the returned funds and the funds not previously obligated to the grantees) to award the next applicant approved for an equipment grant that had not received funds during the initial competitive grant application process.

Application Deadline

Proposals must be received by 5:00 PM Eastern time November 13, 2026. The CSDE will not grant extensions.

The proposal must bear the signature of the food service director and the authorized representative of the SFA. A signature is also required in the Statement of Assurances, which is a component of all proposals. Submit only pages 8-18, electronically via email. Questions should be directed to Sean Fogarty at 860-807-2055 or Sean.Fogarty@ct.gov. Applications must be emailed to:

Sean Fogarty, Grants & Contracts Specialist
Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs
Sean.Fogarty@ct.gov

Application Requirements

Obligations of Grantees

All applicants are hereby notified that the grant to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) § 4a-60 and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (R.C.S.A) §§ 46a-68j-21 et seq.

Assurances

Each application must include a Statement of Assurances undersigned by the authorized official of the district (pages 14-18).

Freedom of Information Act

All of the information contained in any proposal submitted in response to this RFP is subject to the provisions of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), C.G.S. Sections 1-200 et seq. The FOIA states that, except as provided by Federal or State law, records maintained by any public agency (as defined in FOIA) are public records, and every person has the right to inspect and request a copy of such records.

Management Control of the Program and Grant Consultation

The grantee must have complete management control of this grant. While CSDE staff may be consulted for their expertise, they will not be directly responsible for the selection of sub-grantees or vendors, nor will they be directly involved in the expenditure and payment of funds.

RFP # 972
NSLP Equipment Grant 2027 (26-28)
Project Number *For State Use Only:*_____

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Proposal

Submit one (1) proposal and budget page per site

Applicant School Food Authority

SFA Name: _____ Sponsor Agreement Number: _____

UEI Number: _____

Name of School/Site Where Equipment Will Be Used or Installed:

_____

Address:

_____

_____

_____

Did this school previously receive an equipment grant last round? Yes: ___ No: ___

Equipment Sought: _____

Total Amount Requested: $_____Number of Students to Benefit: _____

(Minimum over $1,000 and Limit $15,000 total per SFA)

Please provide two (2) points of contact for your SFA for this project:

Primary Contact Person

Name: _____

Phone Number of Contact Person: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

Secondary Contact Person

Name: _____

Phone Number of Contact Person: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

NSLP Attestation and Signature Page

I, _____, the undersigned authorized chief administrative official of this School Food Authority, submit this application on behalf of the participating agency, attest to the appropriateness and accuracy of the information contained herein, and certify that this application, if funded, will comply with all federal, state and local requirements and that the Statement of Assurances and all other assurances made herein will be fully implemented.

Signature: _____Title: _____

Name (typed): _____Date: _____

****

As the Director/Manager/Supervisor of Food Services, I am aware of this grant application and attest to the accuracy of the information provided herein.

Signature: _____, Director/Manager/Supervisor of Food Services

Name (typed):_____ Date:_____

Description of Proposed Purchase

1) Submit a quote for the equipment from the vendor, along with detailed information on installation and labor costs. Grant submissions without quote(s) will not be submitted for scoring.

2) Type of equipment requested:
   - ☐ New Equipment
   - ☐ Replacement of Equipment *Age of equipment being replaced:* _____
   - ☐ Repair of Equipment *Age of equipment being repaired:* _____

3) Justify how the requested equipment will increase opportunities to impact nutrition and improve the quality of school meals (you are encouraged to use an addendum to explain each area)

4) Explain how the requested equipment will enhance all of the following areas (you are encouraged to use an addendum to explain each area):

   - NSLP & SBP: Purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP & SBP;
   - Healthier Meals: Projects that support healthier meal preparation and service, including equipment that increases scratch cooking capacity, expands the ability to prepare and serve fresh fruits and vegetables, improves meal presentation and appeal, and supports the incorporation of local and minimally and unprocessed foods into school meals;
   - Food Safety: Equipment that improves the safety of food served in the school meal programs (e.g., cold, or hot holding equipment, blast chillers, refrigeration, or freezers);
   - Expand Participation: Equipment that supports a SFA's improvement or expansion of participation in the NSLP or SBP (e.g., strategies for adopting cafeteria changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student); and
   - Efficiency: Equipment that improves the overall energy efficiency of the school nutrition operation which could include food storage and distribution/service (e.g., purchase of an energy efficient walk-in freezer to replace an outdated energy-demanding freezer).

5) Describe an estimated timeline for the purchase and installation of the requested equipment (you may use an addendum if needed):

Submit the following:

- ☐ pages 7-10 with signature(s);
- ☐ this proposal (maximum of two pages explaining equipment, need, and how it will address items 3, 4 and 5 above);
- ☐ written quote(s) for the proposed equipment and services;
- ☐ the proposed budget and budget narrative (pages 11 and 13);
- ☐ the signed Statement of Assurances with the signature of the SFA's designated Authorized Representative (pages 14-18); and
- ☐ email all the above to: Sean.Fogarty@ct.gov

Budget Form

Fiscal Year 2026-28
Grant ☒
Contract ☐

Grantee Name:_____

Sponsor Agreement Number:_____

Grant Title: **FY2026-28 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant**

Project Title/Equipment:_____

CORE-CT Classification: FUND: 12060 SPID: 22386 Program: 82079

Budget Reference: 2027 Chartfield1: 170003

Grant Period: 10/16/2026 - 9/30/2028 Amount Total: $_____

Codes	**Descriptions**	**Budget Breakdown**
400	Purchased Property Service	
500	Other Purchased Services	
600	Supplies	
700	Property	

Total: $ _____

Budget Object Codes

This list is a description of the codes in the budget. The list is provided to help you in designing your budget for the program.

400 **Purchased Property Services.** Services purchased to operate, repair, maintain, and rent property owned or used by the grantee. Persons other than grantee employees perform these services. While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.

500 **Other Purchased Services.** Amounts paid for services rendered by organizations or personnel not on the payroll of the grantee (separate from Professional and Technical Services or Property Services). While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.

600 **Supplies.** Amounts paid for items that are consumed, worn out, or deteriorated through use; or items that lose their identity through fabrication or incorporation into different or more complex units or substances.

700 **Property.** Expenditures for acquiring fixed assets, including land or existing buildings, improvements of grounds, initial equipment, additional equipment, and replacement of equipment. In accordance with the Connecticut State Comptroller's definition equipment, included in this category are all items of equipment (machinery, tools, furniture, vehicles, apparatus, etc.) with a value of over $5,000.00 and the useful life of more than one year and data processing equipment that has unit price under $5,000.00 and a useful life of not less than five years. Per this opportunity Federal regulations allow the purchase of equipment valued at greater than $1,000.

Budget Narrative

Provide a detailed description in the spaces provided below of the proposed use of funds for each line-item amount listed on the budget page. Examples are provided for each budget category.

Code	Description	Amount
400	**Purchased Property Services:** "Quote from XYZ Equipment Supply for the replacement of door and compressor for outdoor walk-in freezer."	
500	**Other Purchased Services:** "Estimated labor cost for installation of dish machine, including removal of old machine per quote by 123 Services."	
600	**Supplies:** "Estimated amount projected for electrical outlet and wiring for blast chiller as quoted by ABC Electricians."	
700	**Property:** "Quote received for walk-in freezer from XYZ Equipment Supply Company."	

Total:_____

Standard Statement of Assurances for Grant Programs
Connecticut State Department of Education

Project Title:_____

Applicant:_____

The Applicant hereby assures the Connecticut State Department of Education that:

A. The applicant has the necessary legal authority to apply for and receive the proposed grant.

B. The filing of this application has been authorized by the applicant's governing body, and the undersigned official has been duly authorized to file this application for and on behalf of said applicant, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application.

C. The activities and services for which assistance is sought under this grant will be administered by or under the supervision and control of the applicant.

D. The project will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and in compliance with regulations and other policies and administrative directives of the State Board of Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

E. Grant funds shall not be used to supplant funds normally budgeted by the agency.

F. Fiscal control and accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of all funds awarded.

G. The applicant will submit a final project report (within 60 days of the project completion) and such other reports, as specified, to the Connecticut State Department of Education, including information relating to the project records and access thereto as the Connecticut State Department of Education may find necessary.

H. The Connecticut State Department of Education reserves the exclusive right to use and grant the right to use and/or publish any part or parts of any summaries, abstracts, reports, publications, records and materials resulting from this project and this grant.

I. If the project achieves the specified objectives, every reasonable effort will be made to continue the project and/or implement the results after the termination of state/federal funding.

J. The applicant will protect and save harmless the State Board of Education from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any breach of the duties, in whole or part, described in the application for the grant.

K. At the conclusion of each grant period, the applicant will provide for an independent audit report acceptable to the grantor in accordance with Sections 7-394a and 7-396a of the C.G.S., and the applicant shall return to the Connecticut State Department of Education any moneys not expended in accordance with the approved program/operation budget as determined by the audit.

L. Nondiscrimination

a) For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:

i. "Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;

ii. "Contract" and “contract” include any extension or modification of the Contract or contract;

iii. "Contractor" and “contractor” include any successors or assigns of the Contractor or contractor;

iv. "Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose;

v. “good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations;

vi. "good faith efforts" includes, but is not limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements;

vii. "marital status" means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced;

viii. "mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders;

ix. "minority business enterprise" means any small contractor (1) fifty-one per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which are owned by a person or persons who (a) exercise operational authority over the daily affairs of the enterprise, (b) have the power to direct the management and policies and receive the beneficial interest of the enterprise, (c) possess managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to the principal business activities of the enterprise, and (d) are members of a minority, as defined in C.G.S. § 32-9n, or are individuals with a disability, or (2) which is a nonprofit corporation in which fifty-one per cent or more of the persons who exercise operational authority over

the enterprise, (a) possess managerial and technical competence and experience directly related to the principal business activities of the enterprise, (b) have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and (c) are member of a minority, as defined in C.G.S. § 32-9n, or are individuals with a disability; and

x. "public works contract" means any agreement (A) for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of changes or improvements in real property, and (B) that is financed in whole or in part by the state, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees where such funding equals one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more.

For purposes of this Section, the terms “Contract” and “contract” do not include a contract where each contractor is (1) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a municipality, unless the contract is a public works contract, (2) any other state, including but not limited to any federally recognized Indian tribal governments, as defined in C.G.S. § 1-267, (3) the federal government, (4) a foreign government, or (5) an agency of a subdivision, state or government described in the immediately preceding enumerated items (1), (2), (3),or (4).

b) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut; and the Contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by the Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved; (2) the Contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission; (3) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which the Contractor has a collective bargaining Agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which the Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission, advising the labor

union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this Section and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (4) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-56, 46a-68e, 46a-68f and 46a-86; and (5) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor as relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Contractor agrees and warrants that he or she will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such public works projects.

c) Determination of the Contractor's good faith efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: The Contractor's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; the timing and value of bids; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.

d) The Contractor shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.

e) The Contractor shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State, and in every subcontract entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a public works contract, and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56; provided, if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.

f) The Contractor agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this Section as they exist on the date of this Contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this Contract and any amendments thereto.

g) Pursuant to subsection (c) of section 4a-60 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Contractor, for itself and its authorized signatory of this Contract, affirms that it

understands the obligations of this Section and that it will maintain a policy for the duration of the Contract to assure that the Contract will be performed in compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of such section. The Contractor and its authorized signatory of this Contract demonstrate their understanding of this obligation by (A) having provided an affirmative response in the required online bid or response to a proposal question which asks if the contractor understands its obligations under such sections, (B) signing this Contract, or (C) initialing this nondiscrimination affirmation in the following box: ☐

M. The grant award is subject to approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education and availability of state or federal funds.

N. The applicant agrees and warrants that Sections 4-190 to 4-197, inclusive, of the C.G.S. concerning the Personal Data Act and Sections 10-4-8 to 10-4-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies promulgated there under are hereby incorporated by reference.

I, the undersigned authorized official, hereby certify that these assurances shall be fully implemented.

Signature of Authorized Official:

Name *(typed)*:_____

Title *(typed)*:_____

Date:_____

Connecticut State Department of Education
NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Scoring Criteria Form

Initials of Scorer:_____ Total Score:_____

School District_____

School/Site Name_____ Project Number:_____

Reader Instructions: Give the proposal a score that best describes its attributes in each category. Add scores for all the sections and record the total number in the above "Total Score" box.

The total maximum score is 105. *Proposals submitted without cost quotes will not be scored.*

Category	Excellent 11-15 Points	Good 6-10 Points	Marginal 1-5 Points	Inadequate 0 Points
School Breakfast Program The proposal addresses serving healthier meals, improving food safety, and supporting the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the NSLP & SBP.				
Healthier Meals The proposal addresses supporting healthier meal preparation and service, including equipment that increases scratch cooking capacity, expands the ability to prepare and serve fresh fruits and vegetables, improves meal presentation and appeal, and supports the incorporation of local and minimally and unprocessed foods into school meals				
Food Safety The proposal addresses equipment that improves the safety of food served in the school meal programs (e.g., cold, or hot holding equipment, blast chillers, refrigeration, or freezers).				
Expand Participation The proposal addresses equipment that supports the SFA's improvement or expansion of participation in the NSLP or SBP (e.g., strategies for adopting cafeteria changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the students).				

Category	Excellent 11-15 Points	Good 6-10 Points	Marginal 1-5 Points	Inadequate 0 Points
Efficiency The proposal addresses equipment that improves the overall energy efficiency of the school nutrition operation which could include food storage and distribution/service (e.g., purchase of an energy efficient walk-in freezer to replace an outdated energy-demanding freezer).				
Assurance to Meet Timeline The proposal clearly describes the ability to expend funds within the specified time frame.				
Budget The budget provides sufficient support for success, is cost effective, and appears reasonable based on the project and financial status of applicant. Review the Budget and Narrative (plan to obligate and spend by deadline).				
Total Points per Category				

Sum of all Categories: _____

Previously received USDA equipment funding last year:

- If YES, subtract 25 points.
- If NO, 0 points. _____

Total Points: _____

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Recommend Funding: Yes___ No___

Federal Terms and Conditions

SFAs chosen for an award from this RFP must comply with the following regulations, principles and assurances:

Government-wide Regulations

- 2 CFR Part 25: "Universal Identifier and Central Locator Contractor Registration"
- 2 CFR Part 170: "Reporting Sub-award and Executive Compensation Information"
- 2 CFR Part 175: "Award Term for Trafficking in Persons"
- 2 CFR Part 180: "OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-Procurement)"
- 2 CFR Part 200: "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards"
- 2 CFR Part 400: USDA Implementing regulations "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards"
- 2 CFR Part 415: USDA "General Program Administrative Regulations"
- 2 CFR Part 416: USDA "General Program Administrative Regulations for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments"
- 2 CFR Part 417: USDA "Implementation of OMB Guidance on Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension"
- 2 CFR Part 418 USDA "New Restrictions on Lobbying"
- 2 CFR Part 421: USDA "Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)"
- 41 USC Section 22 "Interest of Member of Congress"
- Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009, Public Law 110-417
- Sections 738 and 739 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-55)
- "The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), dated September 26, 2006"

Cost Principles

- 2 CFR Part 200: Subpart E, Cost Principles

USDA Regulations

- 7 CFR Part 15: "Nondiscrimination."
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Public access to Federal Financial Assistance records shall not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been excepted from disclosure pursuant to the federal regulations (5 U.S.C. 552).

Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-et seq.), USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15, Nondiscrimination, and Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Part 42, Nondiscrimination; Equal Employment Opportunity: Policies and Procedures.
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) and USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15a, Education Programs or Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) and USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15a, Education Programs or Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance, and Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Part 41, Implementation of Executive Order 12250, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap In Federally Assisted Programs.
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), the Grantee assures that it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate the requirements in these laws, regulations and directives. The Grantee gives this assurance in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining the funds provided under this agreement.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment (Title I), state and local government services (Title II), places of public accommodation and commercial facilities (Title III). (42 U.S.C. 12101-12213).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.