****

#### REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

|  |
| --- |
| **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS** **FOR SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES***Grant Award Period of Performance ends September 30, 2021*  |
| Deadline**4:00 p.m. (ET) Monday, April 27, 2020** **(Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.)** | Issued ByDivision of School and Community Nutrition300 Sower BoulevardFrankfort, KY 40601 |
| Submit all questions in writing to:KDERFP@education.ky.govDeadline for submission of questions:12 Noon (ET) Tuesday, March 31, 2020 | Submit Application to:KDERFP@education.ky.govDeadline for submission of application: 4:00 p.m. (ET) Monday, April 27, 2020 |
| Restrictions/Conditions:***The competition is open only to School Food Authorities (public schools/districts, private schools, residential child care institutions) that participate in the National School Lunch Program that are at least 50% or above F/R and did not receive a prior ARRA or NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Award. Districts that submit an application in response to this RFA must comply with Policy Memo SP 15-2019 and*** [***FNS Standard Terms and Conditions***](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/SP15-2019a2_1.pdf) ***are incorporated herein by reference.*** |

**Kentucky Department of Education**

**school and community nutrition**

**equipment assistance grants**

**Background**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has selected Kentucky to receive federal funds for the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants. These funds were provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, (Public Law 116-6). Kentucky will receive $584,820 to assist School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

**Eligibility Requirements**

These funds will be awarded via a competitive grant process to SFAs giving priority to high need schools (e.g., schools in underserved areas, schools with limited access to other resources, and age of food service equipment) where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. KDE will use the most recent October Qualifying Data available to document eligibility. Please refer to the KDE School and Community Nutrition web site at [Qualifying Data](https://education.ky.gov/federal/SCN/Pages/Qualifying-Data.aspx) for that figure. Applications should only be submitted for schools that have not received a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant.

**Awards**

No grant will be awarded for greater than $25,000 per school. The SFA must have the ability to complete their procurement and expenditure activities by the end of FY 2021 (September 30, 2021).

SFAs that are unable to fully expend their grant amounts must return the unliquidated funds to the State agency. If these funds are returned to the State agency prior to September 30, 2021, the State agency may reallocate available funds (the returned funds and the funds not previously obligated to SFAs) to award the next applicant approved for an equipment grant that had not received funds during the initial competitive grant application process.

**Reporting Requirements**

Awarded SFAs are required to submit quarterly and annual reports to the Division of School and Community Nutrition. The State Agency is also required to submit quarterly and annual reports to the USDA.

This information includes, at a minimum, the following:

* Progress/Challenges made in solicitation, obligation and expenditure of funds by the State Agency
* Progress/Challenges experienced by the SFA/LEA in expenditure of funds
* Number of Equipment Assistance Grant applicants and number approved
* Report on the total amount and percentage of administrative costs expended as compared to the total amount allowable for administrative costs
* School name and free/reduced price rate (Annually)
* Total award amount (Annually)
* The type and cost of each piece of equipment funded (Annually)

Grant applications will be limited per SFA as listed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of Schools Per SFA That Meet the Eligibility Requirements Identified Above** | **Maximum Number of Applications per SFA** |
| **1 to 10**  | **2** |
| **11 to 20**  | **3** |
| **21 to 50** | **4** |
| **51 to 150** | **5** |

**Allowable and Unallowable Uses of Funding**

Equipment requests may include new equipment, renovation of equipment, or replacement of equipment. Regulations at 2 CFR Part 200.33 define equipment as tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000. However, for the FY2019 Equipment Assistance Grants, Congress has specified that the threshold for the purchase of equipment cannot be lower than $1,000. Grantees should keep in mind that this lower purchase threshold only applies to FY2019 equipment grant funds**.**

As with all Federal grant funds, procurement regulations at 7 CFR Part 210.21 and 2 CFR Part 200.317-326 applies, 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 awards.

Funds SHALL be used to purchase equipment to be used in the following ways:

1. Equipment that lends itself to improving the nutritional quality of meals;
2. Equipment that improves the safety of food served in the schools;
3. Equipment that improves overall energy efficiency of nutrition program operations;
4. Equipment that allows SFAs to support expanded participation in the meal service; and,
5. Equipment installation costs.

Funds may NOT be used for:

1. Renovation of existing kitchen or construction of a new one.
2. Equipment already paid for.
3. Point-of-sale system software or hardware; student identification system hardware or software.
4. Any administrative costs associated with applying for the grant or, if successful, implementing the grant.

Submission of Questions

All questions, including those pertaining to the budget, must be submitted via email to kderfp@education.ky.gov by 12:00 pm Noon ET, Tuesday, March 31, 2020. All questions and responses will be posted on the KDE website on or around Friday, April 3, 2020.

Check the [Website](http://education.ky.gov/districts/business/Pages/Competitive%20Grants%20from%20KDE.aspx) for Q&A and Revisions

It is the responsibility of the applicant to periodically review the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](http://education.ky.gov/districts/business/Pages/Competitive%20Grants%20from%20KDE.aspx) for revisions to this RFA; posted questions and responses; and further clarification of requirements, both programmatic and technical.

**Submission of Application**

***The Kentucky Department of Education must receive in its email inbox the original and blind application by 4PM (ET) Monday, April 27, 2020.*** Applications received after this time and date will not be reviewed or considered for award.

One original and one blind copy shall be submitted for each application. Applicants are responsible for contacting the Kentucky Department of Education (at kderfp@education.ky.gov) confirming the receipt of their applications. Upon response, the KDE will confirm the receipt of the email and attachments (if any). Please note the KDE does not open attachments to check for accuracy.

1. Complete one application for each piece of equipment for which you are requesting grant funds. Scan the completed application in its entirety, including all signatures, to PDF format. Save the original application as ***EquipAsst-District-School Name-Original***. (For example:  Franklin County High School in Franklin County would save the original application as *EquipAsst-Franklin-Franklin Co HS-Original*.)
2. When blinding a copy, the blind copy should not contain identifying words or names of people, districts, counties, or schools. You may choose to omit this information, use black highlighting in Microsoft Word, completely blank out the identifying info or use XXXX. Scan the completed blind application it its entirety to PDF format. The blind copy should not contain identifying words or names of people, districts, counties, or schools. The cover page does not need to be scanned for the blind copy. Save the blind application as ***EquipAsst-District-School Name-Blind***. (For example:  Franklin County High School in Franklin County would save the blind application as *EquipAsst-Franklin-Franklin Co HS-Blind.)*

Applications with identifying information may be deemed non-responsive.

1. To submit applications
* On the subject line of the email, type ***EquipAsst/name of district/name of school***.
* Email both to KDERFP@education.ky.gov
* **The date/time on the received email must be on or before 4:00 pm ET, Monday, April 27, 2020,**
	+ Keep in mind that email coming in to the Kentucky Department of Education is routed for security purposes through multiple networks and servers. Allow ample time for this and the possibility that email is not always sent or received on the first try.
	+ Applications not received by the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for award.

Evaluation of Application

A committee consisting of persons knowledgeable in the school food service will review applications. The following factors will be evaluated when scoring the paragraph describing how the piece of equipment will change what you are doing and make a difference in the school nutrition program:

1. Opportunities to realize a meaningful impact on nutrition and quality of meals(e.g., replacing fryers with combination steamer-ovens)
2. Strategies for adopting Smarter Lunchrooms (e.g. lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student population, highlighting healthier choices, redesigning menus that target healthier entrees/options)
3. The availability of existing State and local funding for equipment purchases
4. Age of food service equipment

**Payment for Grants**

Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis up to the award amount. In order to receive payment, SFAs shall submit:

* a copy of the invoice including equipment serial number; and
* a copy of your cancelled check.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027)](https://www.ascr.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA-OASCR-P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail%28002%29.pdf) or at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter 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;

 (2)  Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

 (3)  Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.