

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Authorized Representatives of Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

FROM: Sandy Garrett

DATE: April 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities (SFAs)

Public Law 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA provides a one-time appropriation of \$100,000,000 for equipment assistance to SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Oklahoma will be awarded \$1,519,638 to be distributed to SFAs in June 2009.

The primary effect of the NSLP equipment assistance grants authorized by the ARRA will be to improve the infrastructure in the NSLP. It is important to note that the authority for the grants was provided in the context of the overall effort to stimulate activity within the American economy. **Therefore, to provide timely impact in the economy, grant recipients are encouraged to fully expend their NSLP equipment assistance grants within three months of the award.**

SFA Applications

Each SFA participating in the NSLP is eligible to submit applications on behalf of individual school sites that wish to receive an NSLP equipment assistance grant. Go to the State Department of Education (SDE) Web site at <sde.state.ok.us>, and click on Child Nutrition eClaims. Look for ***Equipment Assistance Grant Application*** in the blue box to the left of the page. Click on this, and complete one application for each school site needing equipment. Be sure to ***Save*** and ***Certify*** each form.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

**NO APPLICATION OR REVISIONS TO THE APPLICATION
WILL BE ACCEPTED PAST THE DUE DATE**

Equipment Definition

Equipment requests may include new equipment, renovation (refurbishment) of equipment, or replacement of equipment. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations at 7 CFR 3016.3 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87 define equipment for the purpose of NSLP equipment assistance grants as articles of nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost of **\$2,500** or more. As with all federal grant funds, equipment procured using NSLP equipment assistance grant funds must be a reasonable and permissible cost.

Selected SFAs must maintain all documentation pertaining to this grant on file until June 30, 2013.

Criteria for Award of NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants to SFAs

State agencies must comply with the statutory requirement that these competitive grants are to be based on the need for equipment assistance in participating schools with priority given to schools in which 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. In addition, state agencies must consider the ability of applicant SFAs to fully expend grant funds within three months of the award.

In order to make the most effective use of NSLP equipment assistance grant funds, there will be four focus areas included on the application. SFAs may select one or more of the focus areas when justifying their need for the equipment assistance grant.

Resources

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) has recently developed a resource for SFAs entitled *Equipment Purchasing and Facility Design for School Nutrition Programs* which includes information on decision making for purchase of school foodservice equipment. This resource is available on NFSMI's Web site at <<http://nfsmi.org/>>.

Approval Notification

If a grant is approved and awarded to your SFA, you will be notified by June 30, 2009. The notification will include the amount of the grant and the approximate date the SFA can expect the award to be deposited.

If you have questions, please contact the CNP office at 405-521-3327.