

OSPI CNS School Meal Programs Reference Sheet

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant are federal funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. This grant provides funds for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to purchase equipment to serve higher quality meals and expand participation.

Who Can Apply?

All K–12 schools, including public, private, and tribal schools, participating in the National School Lunch Program in Washington state are eligible. All LEAs interested in equipment purchases or repairs to support school meals are encouraged to apply. LEAs are limited to applying for a single item of equipment. Exceptions are made when a set of items are a more standard purchase, such as a set of shelving units or multiple cafeteria tables.

How the Grant May Be Used

- Equipment may support school meals in one or more of the following areas:
 - scratch cooking
 - storing fresh food from local producers
 - receiving food deliveries in a more efficient manner
 - serving healthier meals
 - improving food safety
 - improving working conditions for school nutrition staff
 - providing more convenience or appeal to students
- To support Farm-to-School efforts.
- To better utilize entitlement funding towards the storage of USDA foods.

Highlight in your application

- Why the equipment is necessary and reasonable for your operations.
- How the purchase or repair will either improve the quality of your school meals program or expand school meals participation.
- Detailed narrative about how the equipment supports grant goals and
 - Connections with Local School Wellness Policy
 - Collaboration with students, families, teachers, local policy makers, and community groups with an interest in improving children’s health and wellness outcomes.



Grant Evaluation

Proposals will be scored and ranked based on responses provided in the iGrants application. OPSI will utilize existing data for other scoring criteria. Please review the [Equipment Assistance Grant Application Information Sheet](#) for more details.

Grant Timeline and Details

- February 14, 2024 – Grant opens
- March 20, 2024 – Application closes in iGrants at 4pm
- April 2023 – Awardees notified
- September 30, 2025 – Grant activities must be complete
 - Expend grant funds
 - Submit a claim for reimbursement
 - Provide supporting documentation including but not limited to delivery receipts, invoices, and proof of payment

Funds can be used toward equipment purchases or repairs of at least \$1,000. There is no upward limit for the cost of the requested equipment; however, CNS may limit the total amount funded per LEA based on the total grant availability.

All federal, state, and local procurement laws must be followed. All requests must meet the definition of equipment according to USDA, state regulations, or local policy. Specific information to this grant can be found in the iGrants application.

Resources

- [SP 18-2023](#)

Acronym Reference

- CNS – Child Nutrition Services
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture