



TO: Authorized Representative and Food Service Manager, National School Lunch Program

FROM: Christina Burger Nie, MS
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services – Nutrition Services
Nebraska Department of Education

SUBJECT: Invitation to Apply for the FY 2020 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Act awarded the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) \$30 million to distribute to State Agencies for the purpose of awarding equipment assistance grants (EAG). Nebraska received \$169,825 for equipment assistance to eligible school food authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Funds will be distributed through a competitive grant process.

To ensure all available grant funds are allocated to SFAs, Nutrition Services is releasing the grant application to all qualifying schools participating in the NSLP. SFAs that have a Net Cash Resource (more than three months operating expenses in the non-profit school food service account) **are not eligible to apply for this grant.** NDE encourages these SFAs to consider using the Net Cash Resource to purchase new or replace existing equipment.

SFAs must currently be participating in the NSLP and awards will be given on the following priority criteria:

Priority 1:

School buildings that have not received previous Equipment Assistance Grant funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 or the FY 2010, FY 2013 –FY 2019 Agricultural Appropriations Act;

Priority 2:

School buildings that previously received Equipment Assistance Grant funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 or the FY 2010, FY 2013- FY 2018 Agricultural Appropriations Act.

Enclosed with this memo is the Equipment Assistance Grant application. If your school is interested in applying for this grant, a complete application must be submitted to Nutrition Services **postmarked by September 30th, 2020** by 5:00pm (CST). The grant application packet is attached to this email, and can also be found on the Nutrition Services website at <https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/nslp/equipment-grants/>.

Grant Application and Award Timeline:

September 30, 2020 by 5:00pm (CST)	Applications must be postmarked this date to be submitted to NDE.
October 4-16, 2020	NDE's review and scoring of all submitted applications.
October 19, 2020	Notification of grant awards and denials sent to SFAs.
June 30, 2022	All grant funds must be fully expended.

Included Attachments:

- FY 2020 Equipment Assistance Grant Application
- Equipment Assistance Grant (EAG) Terms and Conditions

If you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition Services office at (402) 471-2488 or 1-800-731-2233 or email Christy Burger Nie at christina.burger@nebraska.gov.

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