

Team Nutrition Mini-Grants Summary

Grant Overview: Mini-grant funding of up to \$1,500 is available on a competitive basis for Pennsylvania schools to use to improve nutrition environments. Qualifying schools must be sponsors of the National School Lunch Program. This funding is made available from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition through Project PA. Projects must take place between August 15, 2014 and June 15, 2015.

Up to forty (4) schools will receive an award. Individual schools may apply, and multiple buildings in the same district are eligible as well.

Types of activities that qualify for funding include:

- Chef demonstrations of healthy food preparation for students and/or staff
- Chef training of school food service staff in preparation of recipes that meet the new meal pattern requirements.
- Development and printing of signage to help students/staff understand Offer vs. Serve requirements and/or encourage selection of healthy options.
- Taste-testing of new products/recipes.
- Farm to School activities, such as meetings with local farmers and activities that support school gardening.
- Nutrition education (purchase of materials, printing and copying, etc.)
- School foodservice staff training on new meal pattern requirements.
- Development of and support for Student Advisory Councils (to assist in selection of menu items and creating appealing names for them, to support participation in school meals, etc.)
- Use of “Smarter Lunchroom” techniques to “nudge” students to make healthy choices. Smarter Lunchrooms uses research-based principles to structure the environment to lead children to make healthy choices.
- Assessing your school meal environment for possible changes, for printing of signage, for the purchase of items such as attractive containers to display fruit or other healthy items, and/or for staff time to monitor and report about changes in selection of food items before and after the changes are implemented.

Amount of Award: Up to \$1,500.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Due April 11, 2014. Awards announced in mid-April 2014.

Alternatives if not Awarded: None.

WCSD Resources Required: Building funds may be required for field trip costs not covered by the award.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested buildings and staff to submit an application to the Team Nutrition Mini-Grant.