

Food Service Equipment Grant Summary

Grant Overview: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has made funds available for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to purchase food service equipment. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is receiving \$2.872 million to distribute to schools through a competitive grant process. Any school participating in the NSLP will be able to apply for a food service equipment grant, but the ARRA requires priority be given to schools that have greater than or equal to 50% of the students eligible for free meals (using October Building Data).

PDE is encouraged to have the grants awarded by June 8, 2009. Schools are expected to properly procure the equipment and expend the awarded funds within 3 months of being awarded the grant. Federal, state and local procurement requirements must be followed. Schools are encouraged to consider using the State Bid Contract (COSTARS) in order to speed up the procurement process.

At this time, Sheffield Elementary (50%), Allegheny Valley Elementary (51%), and the South Street Early Learning Center (50%) are the only district buildings that meet or exceed the preferred 50% -plus level of free and reduced lunch students. Other schools may apply, but the first priority will be for schools at 50% or more. There is no district application, which means that each school that the district chooses to pursue equipment for will have to submit its own application.

Aramark has supplied a list of equipment needs for the district administration to consider.

Amount of Award: The actual amount available is not known at this time. This is a competitive grant, and the amount available for all Pennsylvania is approximately \$2,872,000. Information from a recent conference indicates that awards could be up to \$5,000 per approved school

Due Date/Notification of Award: The application for funding was recently removed from the Internet for changes, but has been made available as of April 22, 2009. The due date for submission is May 11, 2009. Legislation requires a rapid turnaround for the grant, so notice should be received quickly if the application is successful.

Alternatives if not Awarded: If the application is rejected, the equipment will not be purchased unless it has been otherwise budgeted for.

WCSD Resources Required: None. Applications may be written to support installation of new equipment, as well as the disposal of the old.

Administrative Recommendation: The administration supports an application to the Food Service Equipment Grant for Sheffield Elementary, Allegheny Valley Elementary, and

South Street Early Learning Center, with additional applications from other WCSD schools with identified needs.