

2022 Food Service Equipment Grant Summary

Grant Overview: PDE, DFN is receiving \$1,047,427 to distribute to schools for food service equipment through a competitive grant process. These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment that is needed to serve healthier school meals, improve food safety, and expand access to school meals. Applications must focus on the following factors:

- Opportunities to realize a meaningful impact on nutrition and quality of meals (such as serving more local foods or replacing fryers with combination steamer-ovens).
- Strategies for adopting lunchroom changes that provide convenience and appeal to the student (e.g., highlighting healthier choices, redesigning menus that target healthier entrees/options).
- Whether there are State and local funds available for equipment purchases.
- Age of food service equipment or lack of appropriate items.
- Ability of food service equipment to increase the efficiency of SFA procurement, food storage, and distribution/service.

Districts with multiple eligible buildings may only submit a total of two (2) applications, one for each building they wish to include for consideration.

Nutrition, Inc. is in the process of evaluating equipment needs and obtaining necessary vendor quotes to move forward with two applications to the grant competition.

Amount of Award: Award ceilings were not discussed in the grant guidelines. Equipment must cost at least \$1,000 and meet other grant specifications for equipment.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Applications are due by October 14, 2022. Notification date is January/February 2023.

Alternatives if not Awarded: Equipment will not be purchased unless it has been otherwise budgeted for.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with the district's Food Service Management Company (FSMC) to develop a Food Service Equipment Grant application for eligible buildings in the Warren County School District with qualifying food service equipment needs.