**Request for Applications (RAF) – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

*NSLP Equipment grant fy 2021*

| **Date:** | February 3, 2022 |
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| Number | Question | Answer |
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| 1 | Does a copy of the completed Lunchroom Scorecard & Summary need to be submitted with the grant application?    | Yes, in the [RFA](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/RFA%20National%20School%20Lunch%20Program%20Equipment%20Grants%20-%20FY%202021%20Accessible.pdf), Section 3.2.2, it indicates that the applicant must submit Smarter Lunchroom Scorecard and Smarter Lunchroom Summary as part of the Application Packet. The [RFA Attachment C: Checklist](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/ATTACHMENT%20C%20Checklist%20Accessible.pdf) has a list of all the required documents for a completed application, this must include the Smarter Lunchroom Scorecard and Smarter Lunchroom Summary.  |
| 2 | Just to confirm, the grant RFA for this year is the one labeled "2021 Equipment Grant Application," correct? <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/Final%2021-23%20Equip%20Grant%20Application.docx> | Yes, the FY 2021 Equipment Grant application is for school year 2021 -2022. As per the [RFA](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/RFA%20National%20School%20Lunch%20Program%20Equipment%20Grants%20-%20FY%202021%20Accessible.pdf) Section 1.2, the performance period is Jun 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023.  |
| 3 | Is this available for private schools? | Yes, any SFA with a previously approved State agency agreement on file to operate the National School Lunch Program (per 7 CFR 210.9(b)), and that would otherwise be operating NSLP in SY 2021-2022, may continue to access NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants while utilizing the flexibilities granted under the current SSO Nationwide waiver.  |
| 4 | If we were to apply for this grant, what is the measurement date for the Free & Reduced percentages? Is it January 2020? Is the cutoff still 50% Free & Reduced? | Agency will only use free and reduced information when awarding Preference Points as detailed in Section 4.4 of the Request for Application (RFA). Each school site will receive the preference points based on the free and reduced-price meal eligibility percentage of enrollment based on report published by ODE: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Documents/Free%20and%20Reduced%20Price%20School%20Data%202021.xlsx> |
| 5 | If a school has received an NSLP equipment grant in prior years, would they be disqualified from this round of grant applications? | No, the Agency will award Preference Points based on whether an Applicant has previously been awarded a NSLP Equipment Grant as detailed in Section 4.4 of the RFA. |
| 6 | If a school were to receive this grant now, would it disqualify them from future grant application cycles? | This RFA only provides information about the current opportunity and is based on guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). |
| 7 | Is there a grant process less complicated for small rural schools? | The grant process is the same for all applicants. Please must follow the instructions provided in the [RFA](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/RFA%20National%20School%20Lunch%20Program%20Equipment%20Grants%20-%20FY%202021%20Accessible.pdf) and the [RFA Attachment C- Checklist](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Pages/Grants.aspxhttps%3A/www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Documents/ATTACHMENT%20C%20Checklist%20Accessible.pdf)  |
| 8 | Is there a way to verify that “*XX”* School District has or has not already applied for this opportunity? | Previous Equipment Grant recipients are listed on the “Grant Opportunities” web page under the heading Equipment Grant Recipients <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Pages/Grants.aspx>Applicants may also submit an email inquiry (only for this question) to ode.schoolnutrition@ode.state.or.us with subject line: FY 2021 NSLP Equipment Grants Inquiry. |
| 9 | Are providers able to apply for this if they received an equipment grant for the last round? | Any entity that meets the eligibility criteria in Section 1.3 can apply for a Grant. Refer to Section 4.4 regarding Preference Points, specifically NSLP Equipment Grant History. |
| 10 | Would cafeteria tables be something we could apply for with the equipment grant? | As stated in Section 1.1 , this RFA is for the funding of equipment that will:•Improve the nutrition of meals served in school meal programs; and•Improve the safety of food served in school meal programs; and•Support the establishment, maintenance or expansion of the School Breakfast Program.The per unit acquisition cost must have a value greater than $1,000, up to $50,000. |
| 11 | In Section 1.1, the 3rd bullet reads that the funding of the equipment shall "Support the establishment, maintenance or expansion of the School Breakfast Program". Currently, we do not participate in the School Breakfast Program - would this make us ineligible for the grant? | Section 2.4, “Scope of Activities” in the RFA, states that “equipment purchased with grant dollars should address the following: serve healthier meals, improved the food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance or expansion of the School Breakfast Program.” Your grant application must meet all three of these requirements.  |
| 12 | Does the grant cover purchase of equipment only or can it cover leased equipment? | Agency will award funds to Applicants which will purchase new equipment, renovating or repairing equipment, or replacing equipment that improve the quality of school meals. This does not include leased equipment. |
| 13 | Can grant money be used to cover maintenance of equipment? | Agency will award funds to Applicants which will purchase new equipment, renovating or repairing equipment, or replacing equipment that improve the quality of school meals. https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/sp-13-2021The use of Grant Funds for maintenance of equipment is not allowed. |
| 14 | Please confirm if there is a maximum dollar value that an individual agency can apply for. It appears that an agency can submit individual grant applications for individual pieces of equipment at a unit cost of $1001- $50,000 per piece of equipment, but is there a maximum combined amount that an agency can apply for? | An eligible entity may submit multiple Applications. There is no maximum amount that an eligible entity will be awarded due to Agency’s acceptance of multiple Applications. One (1) Grant Agreement will be award to an entity and will incorporate the approved amounts of the requested equipment items. The amount of each Application will be between $1,001 and $50,000. Please see RFA, Section 1.2. |
| 15 | 1. Do programs participating in CACFP qualify to apply for this grant?
2. If not, will there be grant opportunities like this one in the future for CACFP sponsors?
 | 1. CACFP Sponsors are not eligible for this opportunity. The RFA, Section 1.3, specifies that applicants must be a School Food Authority (SFA).
2. This RFA only provides information about the current opportunity and is based on guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
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| 16 | 2.4 Scope of Activity One of the items is: Support the establishment, maintenance or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. What does maintenance mean?  | Maintenance in section 2.4 “Scope of Activity” is referring to the School Breakfast Program. Agency will award funds to Applicants which will purchase new equipment, renovating or repairing equipment, or replacing equipment that improve the quality of school meals. The use of Grant Funds for maintenance of equipment is not allowed. |