

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

LOCAL AND VALUES-BASED PURCHASING GRANT

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: January 31, 2025, by 12:00 p.m.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting applications for the Local and Values-Based Purchasing Pilot (LVPP) Grant to build the capacity of early childhood education (ECE) facilities and public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia (DC) operating child nutrition programs (CNP). This grant will help increase the quantity, variety and/or frequency of local foods served and increase the use of values-based procurement methods in purchasing locally sourced and unprocessed foods. This grant will support the implementation of three tracks:

- Track 1 will achieve the goal by providing an additional 20-cent reimbursement incentive to CNPs serving locally grown/raised and unprocessed meal components in addition to the existing Healthy Schools Act (HSA) and Healthy Tots Act (HTA) 5-cent local incentive.
- Track 2 will achieve the goal by providing funding to CNPs to purchase small kitchen equipment that can be used to process or cook local foods.
- Track 3 will achieve the goal by providing funding to community-based organizations (CBO) to provide technical assistance (TA) on local and values-based procurement to ECE facilities and public and public charter schools in DC operating CNPs as well as the food service management companies (FSMC) or school meal vendors that they contract with.

The funding opportunity is made available through federal funds authorized by Section 1001 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: OSSE/H&W will accept applications from not-for-profit, for-profit, and faith-based organizations for Track 3. OSSE will accept applications from ECE facilities that are currently licensed by OSSE, and public and public charter schools for Tracks 1 and 2.

Applications will be scored using the following selection criteria: program abstract; school/facility recruitment and needs assessment; diversity, equity, and inclusion; monitoring and data collection plan; collaboration with partners and stakeholders; and budget. The selection criteria for Track 3 also includes: logic model; technical assistance plan; program sustainability plan; collaboration with partners and stakeholders (if applicable); and summary of qualifications.

Length of Award: The total award period for this grant will be two-year awards, ending on September 30, 2026, contingent upon availability of funds. Each budget period will be one year, with the first period beginning on the date of the award and ending on September 30, 2025. The

applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Funding in future fiscal years is contingent on the following:

- Availability of funds.
- Recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application.
- Recipient's demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and receive of the recipient's reports.
- Compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance.
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout the grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for this grant program is approximately \$360,000. OSSE anticipates issuing the following awards based on the specific tracks from this funding opportunities:

Track 1: OSSE anticipates issuing up to 45 awards from this funding opportunity under this track. The total funding available under Track 1 is \$300,000.

Track 2: OSSE anticipates issuing up to 20 awards from this funding opportunity under this track. The total funding available under Track 2 is \$20,000.

Track 3: OSSE anticipates issuing up to 2 awards from this funding opportunity under this track. The total funding available under Track 3 is \$40,000.

Application Process: A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of external, neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a conflict of interest statement. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE will make all final award decisions.

Applications must be submitted through EGMS by Friday, March 7, 2025 (3:00 p.m. EST). OSSE plans to make awards by March 31, 2025.

A pre-application webinar will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 2 p.m. Interested applicants must register for the session [here](#). Attendance at the pre-application meeting is not required but highly encouraged so that applicants can become familiar with the grant program and application process.

Please see the RFA for more details.

For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

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The RFA will be available on OSSE's website and the Serve D.C. [website](#). Applications will be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System \(EGMS\)](#).