OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2027 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: October 16, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4), and the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-37) authorizes funding through the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) - Division of Health and Wellness, is soliciting grant applications from School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The goal is to provide subgrants to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: These funds will be available through a competitive grant process to District of Columbia NSLP participating public schools, public charter schools and private/non-public schools.

Applications will be scored on the following selection criteria: project vision and implementation, project justification, sustainability, benefit to students with disabilities, and budget justification.

These funds will make a significant investment by allowing the purchase of capital equipment used to serve healthier meals, meet the nutritional standards with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety and expand accessibility to food services.

In order to make the most effective use of these grant funds, equipment requests must address at least one of the following focus areas:

- Improve food safety and sanitation of food served in the NSLP and/or Breakfast Program.
- Improve food quality and ensure consistent preparation results and improve the nutrition and quality of meals.
- Improve operational efficiency by reducing preparation time, increase productivity and workflow for food distribution and food storage.

Length of the Award: The total award period for this grant will be two years, ending on Sept. 30, 2028, contingent upon availability of funds. Each budget period is one year, with the first budget period ending Sept. 30, 2027. The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Receipt of funding for each continuation year is contingent upon:

- 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 review of the recipient's reports;
- Compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout the grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for this award period is approximately $69,829.00. The estimated number of awards ranges from 8 to 10 with the minimum award amount being $1,000 and the maximum award amount being $10,000.

Application Process: OSSE will use an external review panel to review and score each application for this RFA. The review panel will be composed of external neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. 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). The State Superintendent or her designee will make all final award decisions.

Applications must be submitted by December 1, 2026 (3 p.m.). OSSE anticipates issuing awards by January 29, 2027.

Pre-Application Question Period: To ensure an equal opportunity for all applicants, OSSE requests that applicants submit questions regarding the RFA electronically to Kimberly Thompson by 12 p.m. on November 11, 2026. To ensure a fair process, questions submitted after Noevmeber 11, 2026 will not receive responses. Responses to questions will be published by November 19, 2026.

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the following webinar information session. A recording of the information session will be available on the OSSE website.
    - Pre-application webinar: October 20, 2026 10:00-11:00 am.
    - Register here.

For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact::

Kimberly Thompson
Grant Manager
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First Street, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002
Email: Kimberlya.Thompson@dc.gov

The RFA will be available on OSSE's website.The RFA will also be available on the ServeDC's Grants Clearinghouse website. All applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.