

## 2016 Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities

A prime opportunity for schools to obtain or replace equipment is provided by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Act. These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on serving more fruits and vegetables in school meals, including items purchased locally, improving food safety, and expanding access. Priority must be given to schools with 50% or more eligible free/reduced price meals. In addition, the state must give priority to schools that did not receive a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant award under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the FY 2010, FY 2013, FY 2014 and FY 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Acts. **\$68,115 is available in South Dakota. The maximum amount to apply for is \$15,000. The piece of equipment can cost more than that, but the SFA can only apply for up to \$15,000 through this grant.**

### Timeline

- The equipment assistance grant application will be posted to the SD CANS website <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/nslp.aspx> by October 24, 2016.
- Applications are due November 30, 2016.
- Grants to qualifying SFAs will be announced no later than January 4, 2017.
- Grant funds should be obligated by June 30, 2017.
- Any funds not used must be returned to the State Agency prior to September 30, 2017.
- Grant recipients should fully expend their NSLP equipment assistance grants by September 30, 2017.

### Focus of SFA Grants:

In order to make the most effective use of the NSLP equipment assistance grant funds, the equipment procured through this grant should include but not be limited to, the following:

- Opportunities to realize a meaningful impact on nutrition and quality of meals (e.g. replacing fryers with combination steamer-ovens)
- Strategies for adopting Smarter Lunchrooms (e.g. lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student population, highlighting healthier choices, redesigning menus that target healthier entrees/options)
- The availability of existing State and local funding for equipment purchases
- Age of food service equipment

SFAs will be required to follow all Federal, State and Local procurement laws when purchasing equipment under these grants.

### Access the Application

The grant application is on the CANS website <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/nslp.aspx> in the "Equipment Assistance Grants" section or contact the office at 605-773-3413 if you have questions or cannot access the application.