COLORADO
Department of Education

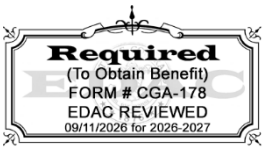
Funding Opportunity

A recorded webinar will be posted on the School Nutrition Grants webpage and announced in the Dish Newsletter.

Applications Due: **Tuesday, November 24, 2026, by 4 pm**
Application will open in GAINS on October 15, 2026, and close on November 24, 2026.

USDA National School Lunch Program
Equipment Assistance Grant

PURSUANT TO: SP 20-2026: FY 2026 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM
EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES



Program Questions:
Diane Matthews, School Nutrition Unit
(720) 595-8042 | Matthews_D@cde.state.co.us

Budget/Fiscal Questions:
Patrick Mueller, Grants Fiscal Management
(303) 656-9341 | Mueller_P@cde.state.co.us

Application Process and GAINS Questions:
Mandy Christensen, Grants Program Administration
(303) 957-6217 | Christensen_A@cde.state.co.us | GAINS@cde.state.co.us

Table of Contents

Introduction and Purpose 3
Eligible Applicants 3
Available Funds and Duration of Grant 3
Allowable Use of Funds 3
USDA Recommendations 4
Award Selection and Criteria 4
Evaluation and Reporting 5
Data Privacy 5
Application Assistance 5
Review Process and Notification 5
Submission Process and Deadline 6
Required Elements 6
Part I: Applicant Information and Program Assurances 7
Part II: Narrative and Budget 11
Evaluation Rubric and Application Scoring 12

Appendix A: 2000-2024 EAG Grant Awards to SFAs 13
Appendix B: Grant Recipient Compliance 15

Note: The following version of the application is intended as a reference document for instructions and grant application planning purposes.

Applications for the USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant must be submitted in GAINS.

Submission of application materials either in hard copy or via e-mail will not be accepted.

The application window will open in GAINS on October 15, 2026, and close on November 24, 2026, at 4 pm.

More information about GAINS is available on CDE's website.

Accessing GAINS

School District and BOCES Applicants

- Contact your district Local Access Manager (LAM) to receive access to GAINS. Documentation and training on this process for LAMs is available on CDE's GAINS Training webpage.

Charter School Applicants

- Complete the Charter School GAINS Access Request Form

All Other Applicants

- Complete the Non-District Organization GAINS Access Request Form

USDA National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

Applications Due: Tuesday, November 24, 2026, by 4 pm

Introduction and Purpose

This grant will competitively award U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service Equipment Assistance Grants to eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs), School Food Authorities (SFAs), and schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). These funds will allow LEAs, SFAs, and/or schools to purchase equipment to:

- Serve healthier meals;
- Improve food safety;
- Support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Eligible Applicants

Colorado Local Education Agencies (LEAs), School Food Authorities (SFAs), and schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program are eligible to receive this grant.

Note: Applications will not be accepted from individual non-charter schools and must be authorized and submitted through the LEA.

Available Funds and Duration of Grant

Approximately $217,968 is available for distribution. Eligible entities may submit only one application and may only request **one piece of equipment** for a specific school site, a central kitchen, or a site that serves multiple schools. **Funding requests for each piece of equipment must be at least $1,000 (including all associated delivery and installation costs).**

Awardees must complete their procurement and expenditure activities, or have an expenditure plan approved by CDE, by February 1, 2028. Awardees that are unable to fully expend their grant funds must return the unliquidated funds to CDE. If these funds are returned to CDE, then CDE may reallocate available funds (the returned funds and the funds not previously obligated to awardees) to award the next highest scoring applicant approved for an Equipment Assistance Grant that had not received funds during the initial competitive grant application process.

Funds returned to CDE after September 30, 2028, must be returned to USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). CDE must follow all standard policies and procedures to award these grants.

Allowable Use of Funds

Funds may be used for the purchase of new equipment, the replacement of old equipment, or the renovation of existing equipment, plus all associated delivery and installation costs. **Funds may only be used for existing sites participating in the NSLP/SBP or a central kitchen that serves multiple sites participating in the NSLP/SBP.**

Equipment is defined as tangible, nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $1,000 or more per unit. The purchase of equipment not included in the approved project budget is allowable only if it is specifically approved beforehand by the Agency and there is documentation to support that the purchase is necessary and reasonable to carry out project activities.

Note: For the purposes of the Equipment Assistance Grant, Congress has specified that the threshold for the purchase of equipment has been lowered to $1,000.

Equipment records must be maintained that include the description of the equipment, the serial number or other identification number, the source of funding for the equipment (including the Federal Award Identification Number, or

FAIN), the title holder, the acquisition date, the percentage of Federal participation in the project costs for the Federal award under which the equipment was acquired, the location, use, and condition of the equipment, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and the sale price of the equipment. A physical inventory of the equipment must be carried out, and the results reconciled with the equipment records every two years or at the grant close out, based on which of these occurs first. A Tangible Personal Property Report, SF-428, 428B, and 428S, must be submitted at award close-out to report the status of the equipment. The Recipient will follow the Agency's equipment disposition guidance and procedures as defined in 2 CFR 200.312.

All federal, state, and local procurement regulations must always be followed when purchasing equipment (7 CFR 210.21 and 2 CFR 200.317-327) and competitive purchasing documentation will be required to be submitted with this grant application. Though not required, awardees are encouraged to purchase equipment made domestically.

With all Federal grant funds, equipment procured using these grant funds must be allowable, reasonable, necessary, and allocable. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles for a detailed description of all allowable and unallowable costs. A complete listing of selected items of costs is located at 2 CFR 200.420 - 200.476.

Installation costs are considered an allowable expense under the Equipment Assistance Grant in memorandum SP 06-2025 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants: Installation Expenditures.

The construction of buildings is prohibited by 7 CFR 210.14(a).

Note: Equipment requests (including all associated delivery and installation costs) **must be at least $1,000**.

- This equipment grant may be tracked in the SFA's Food Service Fund (Fund 21), through the district's general fund (Fund 10) or the designated purpose grants fund (Fund 22).
- The grant may be tracked with the unique grant code (5579).

Grant recipients chosen for an award must comply with all regulations, principles, and assurances as outlined in **Appendix B**.

USDA Recommendations

SFAs should use the following best practices to assist in their efforts to upgrade food service equipment to serve healthier meals:

- School officials and local policymakers should work collaboratively with parents, teachers, students, and funders to identify and implement strategies for meeting equipment, infrastructure, and training needs.
- Nonprofit and for-profit organizations that have an interest in improving children's health, education, school infrastructure, and community wellness should provide assistance to schools in acquiring the necessary equipment.

Award Selection and Criteria

CDE will consider the following award selection criteria for grant recipients:

- Age of food service equipment or lack of appropriate items;
- The availability of existing state and local funding for equipment purchases;
- Strategies for adopting lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student;
- Opportunities to realize meaningful impacts on nutrition and quality of meals.

Focus Areas: To make the most effective use of funds, CDE will consider equipment that improves:

- The nutritional quality of school meals;
- The safety of food served in the school meal programs; and
- Student participation in the SBP.

Priority Consideration will be given for the following:

- SFAs that did not receive a previous USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant award within the last five years from the 2020-2024 Agriculture Appropriation Acts (see **Appendix A: 2020-2024 EAG Grant Awards to SFAs**).
- SFAs with high need schools (schools in underserved or rural areas, schools with limited access to resources, and age of the food service equipment). A Colorado school district is determined to be Rural giving consideration to the size of the district, the distance from the nearest large urban/urbanized area, and having a student enrollment of 6,500 students or fewer. Small Rural districts are those districts meeting these same criteria and having a student population of less than 1,000 students. View the Colorado Department of Education's Rural and Small Rural Designation List.
- Replacement or renovation of existing equipment.

Evaluation and Reporting

CDE is required to report the quarterly and final financial status report to the USDA within 30 days after the close of each quarter. The final financial report is due within 90 days of the expiration of the grant agreement.

Information reported to CDE in relation to grant activities is not confidential and is subject to public request. Awarded grantees should ensure reported information does not contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or confidential information.

Data Privacy

CDE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of student and educator Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored. "Personally identifiable information" means information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual (OMB Circular A-130, Managing Information as a Strategic Resource). PII must be protected in accordance with applicable law, regulation, and policy [e.g., the Privacy Act of 1974; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum, M-17-12, Preparing for and Responding to a Breach of Personally Identifiable Information; OMB Circular A-130, Managing Information as a Strategic Resource (this is a non-exhaustive list of requirements in this area)].

PII will not be collected through the USDA Equipment Assistance Grant Program. All program evaluation data will be collected in the aggregate and will be used, shared, and stored in compliance with CDE's privacy and security policies and procedures.

Note: Documents submitted as part of the application must not contain any personally identifiable student or educator information including names, identification numbers, or anything that could identify an individual. All data should be referenced/included in the aggregate, and the aggregate counts should be redacted to remove small numbers under n=16 for students or n=5 for educators.

Application Assistance

Application training will be recorded and posted on the CDE School Nutrition website and will be announced in The Dish Newsletter. Additional application resources will be posted on the School Nutrition Grants webpage.

Review Process and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by CDE staff and peer reviewers to ensure they contain all required components. Applicants will be notified of final award status no later than **Friday, January 15, 2027**.

Note: This is a competitive process – applicants must score at least 46 points out of the 70 possible narrative points to be approved for funding. Applications that score below 46 narrative points may be asked to submit revisions that would

bring the application up to a fundable level. There is no guarantee that applying will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

Submission Process and Deadline

Applications must be completed and submitted through GAINS by **Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 4 pm.**

Application materials and resources are available on CDE's School Nutrition Grants webpage.

Required Elements

The format outlined below must be followed to ensure consistent application of the evaluation criteria. See Evaluation Rubric for specific selection criteria (page 12).

Applicant and Equipment Information [page 7 of the RFA]

Program Assurances [pages 7-10 of the RFA]

Narrative Responses [page 11 of the RFA]

Budget [page 11 of the RFA]

Equipment Bid/Quote (and Associated Installation Costs, if applicable)

- Applicants will upload all bid/quote documentation in GAINS and should ensure that the winning quote/bid will be honored after the grant has been awarded.

USDA National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

Applications Due: Tuesday, November 24, 2026, by 4 pm

Applicants will complete their application in GAINS.
Applications will be accepted in GAINS from October 15, 2026, through November 24, 2026.

Part I: Applicant Information and Program Assurances

Note that the contact information applicants must provide below is for the purposes of program implementation and is not tied to system roles and permissions within GAINS for the applicant organization. For charter schools served by Charter School Institute or Charter Choice Collaborative as their SFA, the Authorized Representative and Fiscal Manager must be from your authorizing SFA.

Application Contact The person that CDE should contact if there are any questions or additional information needed for this application.			
Name:		**Title:**	
Telephone:		**E-mail:**	
Program Contact The person who will be responsible for receiving communications from CDE staff about this program.			
Name:		**Title:**	
Telephone:		**E-mail:**	
Authorized Representative Information			
Name:		**Title:**	
Telephone:		**E-mail:**	
Fiscal Manager Information			
Name:		**Title:**	
Telephone:		**E-mail:**	

Site Information			
Site Name:		**Central Kitchen:**	Yes ☐ No ☐
Equipment Specifications Upload the equipment bid along with detailed information on equipment item and all associated costs, including delivery, labor, installation, etc.			
Equipment Item Description: (Make and Model)			
Size or Other Specifications:			
This purchased equipment will be:	☐ New Equipment ☐ Replacement of Existing Equipment - ____ Year(s) old ☐ Renovation of Existing Equipment - ____ Year(s) old		
Is the requested equipment related to new school construction, bond project, or is it part of a major renovation of a school facility? (Major renovation is defined as $250,000 or 25% of building value, the lower of these two thresholds.)	☐ No ☐ Yes* *not eligible for the equipment grant		

Program Assurances

Applicants will agree to the Assurances below within the USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant application in GAINS. An upload of this document is not required.

The applicant hereby applies for and, if awarded, accepts the funds requested in this application. In consideration of the receipt of these grant funds, the applicant agrees that the General Assurances form for all state funds and the terms therein are specifically incorporated by reference in this application. The applicant also certifies that all program and pertinent administrative requirements will be met. In addition, grantees that accept funding agree to the following assurances:

1) All the information provided in this application is true and correct and all local, state, and federal regulations regarding procurement and expenditures will be followed (The Colorado Department of Education reserves the right to verify information contained in this application).
2) The purchases made with USDA Equipment Assistance Grant funds are subject to audit and review by the USDA and the CDE Office of School Nutrition.
3) This equipment grant may be tracked in the SFA's Food Service Fund (Fund 21), through the district's general fund (Fund 10) or the designated purpose grants fund (Fund 22).
4) All Colorado Department of Education and USDA required reporting for the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant will be completed and maintained on file.

Duplication of Benefits

Federal or State funds generally cannot be used to pay for the exact same cost or activity already paid for from another source of funding. This is sometimes referred to as a prohibition on duplication of benefits (DOB), or "double-dipping." Entities using multiple funding sources should be aware of the different authorities and program requirements for each funding source, being careful to avoid DOB in instances where they are paying for similar costs or activities from multiple sources. (2CFR200.302) Subrecipients should avoid a duplication of benefits for any federal or state award. A duplication of benefits occurs when the amount of the assistance (i.e., funding) to a beneficiary exceeds the total allowable assistance (i.e., based on the total allocable expenses) to that beneficiary for that purpose.

5) Applicant certifies no duplication of benefits resulting in this funding will occur. If awarded, the Awardee (applicant) will notify CDE in writing should this occur.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Recipients of grant funds are responsible for taking steps to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. Fraud Waste and Abuse can come in many forms, such as:

- Embezzlement, bribery, or other public corruption involving federal or state funds;
- Serious mismanagement involving federal or state programs or funds;
- Theft or misuse of Federal student aid to include knowledge of fraud, waste, or abuse involving a financial aid administrator or other entity official(s), or knowledge of fraud, waste, or abuse involving a student loan servicer or collection agency;
- Knowledge that your entity is not complying with regulations or laws involving Federal student aid or other federal or state program or operation requirements;
- Conflicts of interest, violation of arm's length agreements;
- Contract and procurement irregularities;
- Theft or abuse of government property;
- Employee misconduct; or
- Ethics violations by officials.

Entities are required to have a procedure or methodology for timely reporting, in writing, of any noted violations that may potentially affect the federal or state award. (2CFR200.113)

6) Applicant certifies there are sufficient internal controls in place to reduce or eliminate the possibility of fraud, waste and abuse with these, or any funds within their agency, and if an instance occurs. If awarded, the Awardee (applicant) will notify CDE in writing.

Conflict of Interest

The applicant hereby certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, there are no present or currently planned interests (financial, contractual, organizational, or otherwise) relating to the work to be performed under the contract or grant resulting from this award that would create any actual or potential conflict of interest (or apparent conflicts of interest) (including conflicts of interest for immediate family members: spouses, parents, children) that would impinge on its ability to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice or result in it being given an unfair competitive advantage. In this clause, the term "potential conflict" means reasonably foreseeable conflict of interest. The applicant further certifies that it has and will continue to exercise due diligence in identifying and removing or mitigating, to the Government's or Colorado Department of Education's satisfaction, such conflict of interest (or apparent conflict of interest).

7) Applicant certifies there are sufficient internal controls in place to reduce or eliminate the possibility of any conflicts of interest with these, or any funds within their agency. If awarded, the Awardee (applicant) will notify CDE in writing. (2CFR200.112)

The Colorado Department of Education may terminate a grant award upon thirty days' notice if it is deemed by CDE that the applicant is not fulfilling the requirements of the funded program as specified in the approved project application, or if the program is generating less than satisfactory results.

Project modifications and changes to the approved budget must be requested in GAINS and approved by CDE before modifications are made to the expenditures.

Approvals for this grant must be captured in GAINS from the following personnel:

- Applicant Authorized Representative
- Applicant Fiscal Manager

Note: For Charter School applicants, the above personnel must be from your authorizing district or CSI.

Additional Federal Assurances

NONCOMPLIANCE AND TERMINATION

Noncompliance

As provided in 2 CFR 200.340, the Agency may unilaterally terminate this grant agreement or recover, withhold, or disallow costs of up to 100 percent of the funds made available under the agreement if the Recipient fails to comply with any term of the agreement. **The Agency will consider failure to comply with the reporting requirements of this agreement to be a material failure to comply with the agreement and a basis for termination.** If the Agency decides to take action against the Recipient for noncompliance under this agreement, the Agency will provide the recipient written notice of the basis for its determination.

In the event that an award is suspended and corrective action is not taken within 90 days of the effective suspension date, the Agency may issue a notice of termination. No costs that are incurred during the suspension period or after the effective date of termination will be allowable, except those that are specifically authorized by the suspension or termination notice or those that, in the opinion of the Agency, could not have been reasonably avoided.

Within 30 days of the termination date, the Recipient shall furnish to the Agency a summary of progress achieved under the award, an itemized accounting of charges incurred against award funds and cost sharing prior to the effective date of the suspension or termination, and a separate accounting and justification for any costs that may have been incurred after this date.

RECORD RETENTION AND ACCESS

Evaluation and Access to Records

The Recipient will cooperate with any evaluation of the program by providing the Agency requested data and access to records. The Recipient will cooperate with any, as needed, on-site financial and/or technical reviews and audits at any time during the term of the agreement. In addition, the Recipient shall make all records pertaining to activities under the grant available for audit purposes. The Recipient will require any sub-recipient or contractors to comply with the requirements of this agreement and ensure that the Agency has access to any sub-recipient or contractors for purposes of evaluating, monitoring or reviewing other operations or records as they relate to this grant. When entering into a sub-award, the Recipient shall ensure that the sub-recipient agreement contains any clause required by Federal Statute or Executive Order and their implementing regulations. Records pertaining to this grant shall be retained by the Recipient for a period of three years from the date of the submission of the annual financial status report, as required under 2 CFR 200.334.

Liabilities

The Recipient may not seek any financial recourse from the Agency as a result of any liabilities the Recipient may incur for bodily injury or personal property damage resulting from negligent acts, errors, or omissions of the Recipient, their officers, agents or employees, or if applicable its sub-Recipients or their officers, agents, or employees, in performing this agreement. Liabilities of the United States are governed by the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq

Insurance Coverage

The Recipient must provide the equivalent insurance coverage for real property and equipment acquired or improved with Federal funds.

Federally-Owned and Exempt Property

Title to federally-owned property remains vested in the Federal entity. The Recipient must submit annually an inventory listing of federally-owned property in its custody to the Agency. Upon completion of the project, or when the property is no longer needed, the recipient must contact the Agency for instruction on utilization or disposition (2 CFR 200.312).

Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance for Child Nutrition:

The Grantee hereby agrees that it will comply with i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); ii. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.); v. Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended by the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 12131-12189); vi. Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." (August 11, 2000); vii. All

provisions required by the implementing regulations of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) (7 CFR Part 15 et seq.); viii. Department of Justice Enforcement Guidelines (28 CFR Parts 35, 42 and 50.3); ix. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directives and guidelines to the effect that, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Program applicant receives Federal financial assistance from USDA; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement. x. The USDA non-discrimination statement that in accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal financial assistance, grants, and loans of Federal funds, reimbursable expenditures, grant, or donation of Federal property and interest in property, the detail of Federal personnel, the sale and lease of, and the permission to use Federal property or interest in such property or the furnishing of services without consideration or at a nominal consideration, or at a consideration that is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale, lease, or furnishing of services to the recipient, or any improvements made with Federal financial assistance extended to the Program applicant by USDA. This includes any Federal agreement, arrangement, or other contract that has as one of its purposes the provision of cash assistance for the purchase of food, and cash assistance for purchase or rental of food service equipment or any other financial assistance extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance. By accepting this assurance, the Grantee agrees to compile data, maintain records, and submit records and reports as required, to permit effective enforcement of nondiscrimination laws and permit authorized USDA personnel during hours of program operation to review and copy such records, books, and accounts, access such facilities and interview such personnel as needed to ascertain compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. If there are any violations of this assurance, the Department of Agriculture, FNS, shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance.

This assurance is binding on the Grantee, its successors, transferees and assignees as long as it receives assistance or retains possession of any assistance from USDA.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Part II: Narrative and Budget

Responses should be completed in the online application form. Although the system will save your work in progress, applicants may find it useful to compose answers in a separate document and copy them into the form. To receive full points, applicants must address all questions and subparts below. See page 12 of the RFA for the Evaluation Rubric.

For those applicants previously receiving funding from the USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant, the expectation is that the narrative will include references to that award, where applicable. For example, discuss how the funds contributed to the program and what still needs to be accomplished. Applicants should demonstrate ongoing and improved capacity in the program and a well-developed plan for sustainability.

1) **Describe the SFA's need for the equipment, including the lack of available state and local funding for equipment purchases. (District or schools in underserved areas, rural or small rural district, Charter School, non-public school, school with limited access to other resources, etc.).**
   [not to exceed 200 words]

2) **Describe how the equipment will improve the safety of food served in the school meal programs, or how the lack of appropriate equipment is a barrier to serving meals (e.g., food safety of equipment needs for new meal service methods, age of equipment).**
   [not to exceed 200 words]

3) **Describe how the equipment will have a meaningful impact on the nutritional value and quality of school meals, or how the equipment supports strategies for adopting lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student (e.g., use of healthier grab n' go items, emphasis on fruits and vegetables, improved cooking processes, incorporating local foods, highlighting healthier choices, etc.).**
   [not to exceed 200 words]

4) **Describe how the equipment will help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program.**
   [not to exceed 200 words]

Program Budget:

Complete your proposed program budget in GAINS. Provide a detailed description of each activity budgeted.

The following categories can be budgeted:

Purchased Professional and Technical Services - Services which by their nature can be performed only by persons or firms with specialized skills and knowledge. Example: A technician specializing in replacing motors on coolers or replacing burners on a gas cooktop.

Purchased Property Services - Services purchased to operate, repair, maintain and rent property owned or used by the school district. Example: A technician that comes out to check and maintain refrigerators so they remain in proper working order.

Other Purchased Services - Amounts paid for services rendered by organizations or personnel not on payroll of the school district. Example: A repair technician to come out and fix or replace equipment.

Equipment - Capitalized - Expenditures for acquiring capital assets. This includes initial equipment, upgrading equipment, replacement of equipment, and additional equipment. Along with the equipment itself, this includes all related cost to transport, install, and service the equipment. All applicable taxes are included as well. Since every district has different thresholds of capital expenditures you should consult your district's capital asset policy to determine the correct coding. If the purchase does not meet the capital guidance you can still use Equipment - Non-Capitalized.

Equipment - Non-Capitalized - Expenditures for items classified as equipment but costing less than the district's capitalization policy.

Evaluation Rubric and Application Scoring

Reviewers will use the following criteria to evaluate the application. For the application to be recommended for funding, it must receive at least 46 points out of the 70 possible narrative points and all required elements must be addressed. An application that scores below 46 points may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application up to a fundable level. An application that receives a score of zero on any required elements will not be funded without revisions.

Part II:	**Priority Criteria and Application Narrative**		
	Section A:	Priority Points	30
	Section B:	Equipment Information and Improved Quality of Programming	70
		Total Available:	**100**

Section A: Priority Points

Site within SFA previously received USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant award: 2000-2024 Agriculture Appropriation Acts (see **Appendix A**)	**Number of Times Grant(s) Received:** **2 or more times – 0 points** **1 time – 5 points** **Never – 10 points**
High Need Schools: The school district is designated as Rural or Small Rural by CDE. View the Colorado Department of Education Rural and Small Rural Designation list.	**No – 0 points** **Yes – 15 points**
Replacement of Equipment: Is the equipment replacing/renovating old existing equipment or is it a new piece of equipment?	**New Equipment – 0 points** **Replacing or Renovating Equipment – 5 points**

Section B: Equipment Information and Improved Quality of Programming

To receive full points, applicant must completely address all questions and subparts and how they will meet the grant objectives.

1) Need and availability of funding	**0 - Inadequate** information not provided	**8 - Minimal** requires additional clarification	**16 - Adequate** clear and complete	**25 - High Quality** exemplar response
2) Food safety and lack of appropriate equipment	**0 - Inadequate**	**8 - Minimal**	**16 - Adequate**	**25 - High Quality**
3) Improvement of nutritional quality and strategies for lunchroom change	**0 - Inadequate**	**4 - Minimal**	**7 - Adequate**	**10 - High Quality**
4) Support or improvement of the School Breakfast Program	**0 - Inadequate**	**4 - Minimal**	**7 - Adequate**	**10 - High Quality**

Appendix A: 2020-2024 EAG Grant Awards to SFAs

District Code	SFA Name	School Code	School/Site Name	Grant Year
0010	Mapleton 1	0509	Clayton Partnership School	2023
0020	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	8842	Thornton Elementary	2022
0070	Westminster 50	8798	Tennyson Knolls Preparatory School	2020
0100	Alamosa School District RE-11J	0114	Ortega Middle School	2020
0120	Englewood	0206	Colorado's Finest High School of Choice	2020
0120	Englewood	2752	Englewood Middle School	2021
0120	Englewood	1514	Charles Hay World School	2022
0140	Littleton 6	3930	Heritage High School	2022
0180	Adams-Arapahoe 28J	5957	Montessori Del Mundo	2022
0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	2020
0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	2021
0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	0240	Pritchett School District RE-3	2022
0260	Vilas School District RE-5	0260	Vilas School District RE-5	2024
0270	Campo School District RE-6	0270	Central Production Kitchen	2024
0310	McClave RE-2	0310	Central Production Kitchen	2023
0470	St Vrain Valley RE 1J	6010	Timberline PK-8	2021
0470	St Vrain Valley RE 1J	7584	Sanborn Elementary	2023
0480	Boulder Valley School District	0480	Boulder Valley School District	2020
0480	Boulder Valley School District	3940	High Peaks Elementary	2021
0480	Boulder Valley School District	0480	BVSD Culinary Center	2022
0490	Buena Vista R-31	4306	Avery Parsons Elementary	2024
0540	Clear Creek School District RE-1	4700	King-Murphy Elementary	2020
0540	Clear Creek School District RE-1	1660	Clear Creek Middle School	2022
0540	Clear Creek School District RE-1	4700	King Murphy Elementary School	2023
0770	Crowley County School District RE. 1-J	2054	Crowley County Primary School	2020
0770	Crowley County School District RE. 1-J	2058	Crowley County Jr/Sr High School	2022
0890	Dolores County School District RE-2	7764	Seventh Street Elementary School	2021
0900	Douglas County School District RE-1	7610	Sand Creek Elementary	2021
0900	Douglas County School District RE-1	0900	DCSD Nutrition Services Warehouse	2022
0900	Douglas County School District RE-1	3138	Fox Creek Elementary	2023
0920	Elizabeth School District	7517	Running Creek Elementary	2024
0930	Kiowa School District C-2	0930	Kiowa School District C-2	2022
0960	Agate School District 300	0044	Agate School	2022
0970	Calhan School District	0970	Calhan School District	2021
0970	Calhan School District	1218	Calhan School	2022
1050	Ellicott School District 22	2642	Ellicott High School	2023
1350	East Grand School District	5864	Middle Park High School	2022
1380	Hinsdale County School District RE-1	4899	Lake City Community School	2022
1420	Jefferson County R-1	8834	Thomson Elementary School	2020
1420	Jefferson County R-1	9382	Weber Elementary School	2021
1420	Jefferson County R-1	5036	Leawood Elementary School	2022
1450	Arriba-Flagler Consolidated 20	2960	Arriba-Flager School District C-20	2022
1460	Hi-Plains R-23	1460	Central Production Kitchen	2024
1480	Stratton School District R-4	8354	Stratton High School	2020
1480	Stratton School District R-4	8342	Stratton Elementary School	2021
1480	Stratton School District R-4	8354	Stratton High School	2023
1490	Bethune School District R-5	0842	Bethune Public School	2020
1490	Bethune School District R-5	0842	Bethune Public School	2022
1510	Lake County School District	4904	Lake County High School	2020
1510	Lake County School District	4904	Lake County High School	2024
1520	Durango School District 9R	2318	Durango High School	2023
1550	Poudre R-1	7127	Poudre High School	2023
1750	Branson School District RE-82	0978	Branson School	2022
1810	Karval School District RE-23	1810	Karval School District RE-23	2022
1850	Frenchman School District (Fleming)	1850	Frenchman School District (Fleming)	2021
1860	Buffalo RE-4	1860	Buffalo School District RE-4J	2020
1860	Buffalo RE-4	1860	Buffalo School District RE-4J	2022
1980	De Beque School District 49JT	2126	De Beque PK-12	2022
2395	Brush Re-2(J)	1438	Beaver Valley Elementary	2020
2405	Fort Morgan RE-3	1009	Baker Elementary School	2022
2515	Wiggins Re-50(J)	9576	Wiggins Elementary School	2020

2515	Wiggins Re-50(J)	9575	Wiggins Primary School	2023
2570	Swink School District	2570	Swink School District	2021
2570	Swink School District	2570	Swink School District	2022
2570	Swink School District	2570	Swink School District	2023
2600	Platte Canyon School District 1	7042	Deer Creek Elementary	2020
2600	Platte Canyon School District 1	7042	Deer Creek Elementary	2022
2620	Holyoke School District	2620	Holyoke School District	2022
2630	Haxtun School District	2630	Haxton School District	2020
2630	Haxtun School District	2630	Haxton School District	2022
2650	Granada School District RE-1	2650	Granada School District RE-1	2020
2740	Monte Vista School District	6044	Monte Vista Middle School	2020
2740	Monte Vista School District	6036	Bill Metz Elementary	2022
2770	Steamboat Springs School District RE-2	2770	SSSD Central Kitchen	2022
2780	South Routt School District RE-3	2780	Central Production Kitchen	2024
2810	Center Consolidated Schools 26JT	2810	Central Production Kitchen	2024
2830	Telluride School District R-1	8790	Telluride Middle High School	2021
2862	Julesburg School District RE-1	4488	Julesburg Elementary School	2021
2865	Revere School District	7050	Revere School District	2022
2865	Revere School District	2865	Central Production Kitchen	2023
3010	Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1	9080	Cresson Elementary School	2020
3020	Woodland Park RE-2	9694, 9692	Woodland Park Middle School and Gateway Elementary	2020
3030	Akron R-1	3030	Central Production Kitchen	2024
3040	Arickaree School District R-2	3040	Arickaree School District R-2	2021
3040	Arickaree School District R-2	3040	Arickaree School District R-2	2022
3070	Woodlin R-104	3070	Central Production Kitchen	2023
3140	Weld County School District RE-8	5050	Butler Elementary	2020
8001	Charter School Institute	2837	Early College of Arvada	2020
8001	Charter School Institute	2067	Colorado Early College Fort Collins	2020
8001	Charter School Institute	6679	Pagosa Peak Open School	2021
8001	Charter School Institute	8001	Axis International Academy	2022
8001	Charter School Institute	0075	Animas High School	2023
8006	Peak to Peak Charter School SFA	8006	Peak to Peak Charter School	2023
8042	Charter Choice Collaborative	0653	Stone Creek Charter School	2022
8042	Charter Choice Collaborative	5917	Mountain Sage Community School	2022
8042	Charter Choice Collaborative	9431	Westgate Community School	2022
8673	St. Rose of Lima Catholic Academy	8763	St. Rose of Lima Catholic Academy	2022
9589	Windsor Charter Academy		Windsor Charter Academy	2023

Appendix B: Grant Recipient Compliance

Grant recipients chosen for an award must comply with the following regulations, principles, and assurances:

DEBT MANAGEMENT: 7 CFR Part 3

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS: 7 CFR Part 16

PRIVACY ACT

The Cooperator/Grantee shall follow the rules and procedures of disclosure set forth in the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and implementing regulations and policies, with respect to systems of records determined to be subject to the Privacy Act.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

This grant will be awarded and administered in accordance with the following regulations 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subtitle A, Chapter II. Any Federal laws, regulations, or USDA directives released after this RFA is posted will be implemented as instructed.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE REGULATIONS

2 CFR Part 25: "Universal Identifier and System for Award Management", 2 CFR Part 170: "Reporting Sub-award and Executive Compensation Information", 2 CFR Part 175: "Award Term for Trafficking in Persons", 2 CFR Part 180: "OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-Procurement)" 2 CFR Part 200: "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards", 2 CFR Part 400: USDA's implementing regulation of 2 CFR Part 200 "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards", 2 CFR Part 415: USDA "General Program Administrative Regulations", 2 CFR Part 416: USDA "General Program Administrative Regulations for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments", 2 CFR Part 417: USDA "Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension", 2 CFR Part 418 USDA "New Restrictions on Lobbying, 2 CFR Part 421: USDA "Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)", 7 CRR Part 16: "Equal Opportunity for Religious Organizations", 41 U.S.C. Section 22 "Interest of Member of Congress", Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Public access to Federal Financial Assistance records shall not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been excepted from disclosure pursuant to the "Freedom of Information" regulation (5 U.S.C. 552)

FEDERAL TAX LIABILITIES RESTRICTIONS

None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

FELONY CRIME CONVICTION RESTRICTIONS

None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION: 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 417

A recipient chosen for an award shall comply with the non-procurement debarment and suspension common rule implementing Executive Orders (E.O.) 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension," codified at 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 417. This common rule restricts sub-awards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs or activities. The approved grant recipient will be required to ensure that all sub-contractors and sub-grantees are neither excluded nor disqualified under the suspension and debarment rules prior to approving a sub-grant award by checking the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov.

COST PRINCIPLES: 2 CFR, Part 200: Subpart E, Cost Principles

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) REQUESTS

The Freedom of Information ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, provides individuals with a right to access records in the possession of the Federal Government. The Government may withhold information pursuant to the nine exemptions and the three exclusions contained in the Act. Application packages submitted in response to this grant solicitation may be subject to FOIA by requests by interested parties. In response to these requests, FNS will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including departmental regulations. FNS will forward a Business Submitter Notice to the requested applicant's point-of-contact. Applicants will need to review requested materials and submit and submit any recommendations within 10 days from the date of FNS notification. FNS will redact Personally Identifiable Information (PII). For additional information on the Freedom of Information (FOIA) process, please contact the FNS Freedom of Information Act officer at FOIA@usda.gov.

USDA REGULATIONS: 7 CFR Part 15: "Nondiscrimination"

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Public access to Federal Financial Assistance records shall not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been excepted from disclosure pursuant to the "Freedom of Information" regulation (5 U.S.C. 552).

ASSURANCE OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-et seq.), USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15, Nondiscrimination, and Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Part 42, Nondiscrimination; Equal Employment Opportunity: Policies and Procedures

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) and USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15a, Education Programs or Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) and USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 15a, Education Programs or Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance, and Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Part 41, Implementation of Executive Order 12250, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap In Federally Assisted Programs

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) The Grantee assures that it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate the requirements in these laws, regulations, and directives. The Grantee gives this assurance inconsideration of and for the purpose of obtaining the funds provided under this agreement.
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment (Title I), state and local government services (Title II), places of public accommodation and commercial facilities (Title III). (42 U.S.C. 12101-12213)

WITHDRAW FROM CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
Sites participating in the National School Lunch Program are eligible to receiving funding through this grant. Should an awarded SFA or site withdraw from child nutrition programs, and the awarded equipment has not been fully depreciated at that time, the SFA will either a) transfer the equipment to a SFA/site that is still participating in NSLP, or b) return the remaining value of the equipment to USDA.

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.