



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents,
Public School Academy Administrators, Selected Nonpublic School
Administrators, and Residential Child Care Institutions

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *CW*

SUBJECT: 2009 Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities

Public Law 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), authorizes the expenditure of approximately \$2,555,000 for equipment assistance grants to School Food Authorities (SFA) within Michigan. The purpose of this competitive grant program is to purchase food service equipment that will replace existing old or worn out equipment and/or purchase equipment that will expand and enhance the agencies' food service operation. The SFA grant funds must be used for food service equipment that meets one or more of the following function(s):

- Improves the quality of school food service meals that meet the dietary guidelines.
- Improves the safety of food served in the school meal programs.
- Improves the overall energy efficiency of the school food service operations.
- Allows the SFA to expand student participation in a school meals program.

The grant can be used only to purchase major nonexpendable, tangible property with a useful life of more than one year and a unit acquisition cost of at least \$5,000. Building renovation projects are not allowed. Priority will be given to SFAs for buildings in which at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The 2009 Equipment Assistance Grant for School Food Authorities applications are expected to be submitted using the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) no later than May 29, 2009, with grant award announcements in June 2009. Procurement for all equipment is encouraged to be completed as soon as possible and payment for purchases should be completed no later than December 2009. A grant announcement and additional instructions will be published by April 16, 2009. The resource manual *Equipment Purchasing and Facility Design for School Nutrition Programs* (<http://www.nfsmi.org/documentLibraryFiles/PDF/20090312115009.pdf>) will provide information that will help you and your Food Service Director make decisions regarding the purchase of food service equipment.

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