



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 24, 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: Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities – Application
Information

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that the application for the 2010 Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities will be available **May 4, 2009**.

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 allows for the purchase of major nonexpendable, tangible property with a useful life of more than one year and a unit acquisition cost of at least \$5,000. The grant will not allow building renovation projects. Maximum grant awards will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000 per school district.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for the ARRA Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities is 10.579.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are SFAs currently participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Priority will be given to sites that have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals. **The application deadline is May 29, 2009.**

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School Selection Criteria

- Each site must be currently participating in the NSLP.
- Each agency may submit only one application, but the application may include equipment requests for multiple sites.
- Highest priority will be given to sites that have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- The application must identify the need for equipment assistance.

Award selections will be based on merit and quality, as determined by points awarded for the application review. MDE may apply other factors in making funding decisions, such as (1) geographic distribution; and/or (2) performance of the fiscal agent on previously funded initiatives and the United States Department of Agriculture, Child Nutrition Programs. Additionally, MDE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this announcement.

Application Information

All applicants must submit an application using the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS):

- Complete your application online using MEGS at: <http://megs.mde.state.mi.us/megs/>.
Note: only a MEGS Authorized Official (Level 5) may initiate the ARRA Equipment Assistance grant application in MEGS.
- To find out who your MEGS Authorized Official (Level 5) is, please ask your district office or contact Tina Ray at 517-373-1806.

All grant information will be available May 4, 2009, at the following links:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5236---,00.html> (Grants Website)

- Look under What's New.

www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition

- Look under What's New.

Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to the Grants Coordination and School Support, School Nutrition Training and Programs unit by email to

MDE-2010ARRAEquipmentAssistanceGrants@michigan.gov or phone 517-373-3347.