



Date: 08/26/2026

To: All Applicants

From: Office of Procurement and Grants
Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Addendum for Request for Applications: RHTP 1.1 School Kitchen Modernization Grants

Language Update

The following are updates to the above-mentioned Request for Applications. It is the Applicant's responsibility to check the DHHS website for all addenda or amendments.

RFA is amended to read:

Page 2, is amended to read:

Application scoring:

Applications will be scored based on the following:

- explanation of how requested funds will support preparation and service of minimally processed protein foods, semi-scratch and scratch cooked items, and how these items will improve nutrition quality of meals offered at school breakfast and lunch;
- provision of four weeks/one month of menus that includes identification of which menu items will be eliminated and what semi-scratch and scratch cooked items will be served instead;
- inclusion of at least three price quotes for desired equipment (items with a purchase value of \$10,000.00 or more), including equipment specifications to ensure price comparison has been made on identical equipment

Awards:

There is no maximum award amount. Applicants may request funding at any level that is justified by the scope and needs of the proposed project.

Eligibility:

Rural Schools, School Districts, or Educational Service Units may be eligible for funding to support the expansion or scale of healthy lunch options in rural and frontier counties.

Priority:

Applications will be prioritized based on several criteria:

- Location in food desert; and

- Poverty census data.

This section includes no other changes.

Page 3, is amended to read:

Award of Funding:

Applications will be reviewed for completeness and awarded on a rolling basis. Only complete applications will be considered for funding awards. Awarded schools will be notified by a grant award notification transmitted via email. The NDE will process payments for approved grant purchases on a reimbursement basis.

Use of Funds:

The purchases made available by this grant must support the service of locally produced protein items and a reduction in heat and serve items that will support an increase in student participation in the school meals programs. Applicant schools must outline in their application how they intend to use grant funds (see Purchasing & Procurement section). Funds may only be used for allowable equipment and supply expenses that receive approval from the NDE. All purchases are subject to program requirements identified in 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 300. Administrative expenses are not an allowable expense of this grant. Construction costs are not allowable expenses of this grant.

Equipment is defined as items with a purchase value of \$10,000.00 or more. Purchases may include equipment such as blast chillers, salad bars, refrigeration units, scratch-cooking appliances, storage equipment, greenhouses, etc. For a list of eligible equipment, please visit this link. If your desired equipment is not found in the provided list, please contact the NDE at Kayte.Partch@nebraska.gov to inquire about its allowability. Necessary and reasonable installation costs associated with placing approved equipment into operation may be included in the application, provided they are allocable to the approved project and clearly identified in the budget. If installation requires modifications to electrical service, plumbing, HVAC, walls, or other building infrastructure, the work may constitute a minor alteration or renovation rather than simply equipment installation. Minor alterations may be allowable with the required approval, while significant retrofitting, major renovation, building expansion, and new construction are unallowable.

This section includes no other changes.

Page 4, Explanation of Planned Purchases is amended to read:

Information needed in the application now allows for supplies and equipment.

This section includes no other changes.

The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (US HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$218,529,075.01 with 100 percent funded by CMS/US HHS. The contents are those of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/US HHS, or the U.S. Government.