



Date: 08/27/2026

To: All Applicants

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

Re: Addendum for Request for Applications: RHTP 1.3 Farm-to-School Procurement and Policy Technical Assistance (TA)

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 1, is amended to read:

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.

Page 2, is amended to read:

Evaluation of Applications:

The NDE will evaluate all applications to determine whether the Applicant is an eligible entity, whether the Application meets the minimum requirements of this RFA, and whether the Applicant poses risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Grant, such that NDE should not award funding.

A scoring committee will evaluate all complete applications. NDE will award applicants based on the strength of their application and how effectively applicants demonstrate that the funding will be used to purchase food production, aggregation, processing, and distribution equipment, supplies, and operational costs that support school access to local foods, including proteins, that promote healthy eating.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following general criteria:

- Alignment with the purpose of Initiative 1.3, including increasing school access to locally produced, minimally processed foods;

- Demonstrated need for the requested equipment, supplies, and operational costs;
- Identification of schools to be served and evidence that the equipment, supplies, and operational costs will support school meal access to local foods;
- Readiness to complete procurement, purchase, installation, and reimbursement documentation within the grant period;
- Priority for rural, frontier, tribal, and food desert communities;
- Ability to comply with financial, reporting, inventory, and documentation requirements.

Award of Funding:

Applications will be reviewed for completeness. Funding will be awarded based on the strength of the Application and how the use of funding from this grant will improve the Applicant's ability to process, aggregate, produce, and distribute local foods, including proteins, for use in school meals. Applications will be awarded on a rolling basis for awards up to \$150,000.00 to be used for allowable purchases as funding allows. No promise for funds is binding on NDE, and no funds will be paid to any Applicant until a grant has been executed by both the Applicant and NDE. Costs incurred before the grant agreement is fully executed are not reimbursable unless specifically authorized in writing by NDE. Awarded entities 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:

Applicants must outline in their application how they intend to use grant funds. Funds may only be used for allowable equipment, supply, and operational expenses that receive approval from the NDE. Funds must be used to increase the access of locally produced, minimally processed foods. Funds awarded by this grant cannot be used for anything not directly related to food production, processing, aggregation, and distribution. Applicants must outline in this Application how they intend to use grant funds in the Purchasing & Procurement section. Funds may only be used for allowable expenses that receive approval as part of the entity's submitted Application. Administrative costs, food, and construction are not allowable costs for this grant. All purchases are subject to program requirements identified in 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 300.

Equipment is defined as items with a purchase value greater than \$10,000. Eligible equipment may include trailers, forklifts, pallet jacks, packaging equipment, refrigeration units or generators, and food safety equipment. 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 3, is amended to read:

Reporting Requirements:

Applicants must have a financial system in place to monitor their expenditures. Grantees may be audited at any time. All receipts, procurement records, quotes, invoices, proof of payment, and equipment records must be made available upon request. Grantees will be required to submit reports as identified in the executed grant agreement. Reporting may include information on use of funds (e.g. equipment

purchased, supplies purchased, etc.), schools served, products supplied or expected to be supplied to schools, volume or value of local foods provided, and participation in NDE-hosted technical assistance activities.

This section includes no other changes.

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

Explanation of Planned Purchases:

Please provide a detailed explanation of the equipment, supplies, and operational costs the entity will utilize the funds from this grant for, including its intended use, specifications, cost, and whether it is expected to support the sale of local foods to schools or other revenue-generating activities.

Explain how the use of funds will support an increase in food production, aggregation, processing, and/or distribution to establish or enhance schools' access to locally grown foods, including proteins, served in the school meals program.

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.