

School Food Service Kitchen Equipment Grant Program

Now Accepting Applications

Highlights

- Funding opportunity for kitchen and food prep equipment
- Target recipients: schools and other childcare institutions
- Award amounts up to \$1,500 per site (at least 6 sites to be awarded)
- Free kitchen equipment audit for grant recipients
- No match requirement
- Application deadline: **Friday, January 17th, 2020 – 5:00 PM CST**

Program Overview

Kane County and the Illinois Farm to School Network are pleased to announce the launch of a new grant program for area schools and other childcare institutions. The School Food Service Kitchen Equipment Grant Program was launched to help schools and other institutions obtain the resources needed to prepare fresh foods as part of a cafeteria service or other meal/snacking program. According to Kane County's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, only about 37% of the county's children (ages 2 – 17) consume the recommended 5 or more servings of fruits or vegetables per day.

Kane County, through its Growing for Kane Program, is also focused on reducing barriers faced by local farmers that want to sell their fresh foods to schools and other food-serving institutions. Local farmers will find more opportunities to sell their food products to institutions that are equipped to prep and cook unprocessed food items.

This program is being sponsored by the Food:Land:Opportunity initiative, a multi-year effort that aims to create a resilient local food economy that protects and conserves land and other natural resources while promoting market innovation and building wealth and assets in the Chicago region's communities. Funded through Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, Food:Land:Opportunity is a collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust.



Food:Land:Opportunity

Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

Eligibility

Applicants – Eligible applicants must be participants in the National School Lunch Program. Typical institutions would include schools / school districts, early childcare centers, and boarding facilities among others. Preference will be given to institutions operating in Kane County, Illinois - but facilities in neighboring communities shall also be considered.

Expenses – Eligible grant expenses shall be limited to equipment used for the preparation or storage of food items as part of an institutional food service or food garden program. Eligible equipment shall include durable goods / materials with a minimum expected lifespan of 3-5 years.

Grantee Requirements – Awarded grantees will be required to submit a brief report documenting the purchase and operation of equipment reflected in their proposals. Prior to receiving funds, all grantees will be required to complete a kitchen equipment audit for their sites (see below for details). There is no matching contribution requirement.

Instructions

Interested applicants may download and complete an application for the School Food Service Kitchen Equipment Grant Program here: <http://bit.ly/KANECOGGRANTAPP>. Submission instructions are included in the application. The deadline for submitting completed applications is **Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM CST.**

The selected grantees will be required to complete a kitchen audit of each facility in their proposal prior to receiving an award. The kitchen audits are intended to provide institutions and their food service managers with an on-site assessment of their capabilities for preparing and serving fresh foods. The onsite audits will determine each facility's kitchen equipment needs with recommendations for integrating new healthy food options in meal services. All audits will be conducted by a representative of the Illinois Farm to School Network.

Questions about the grant program can be directed to Matt Tansley, Kane County Planning Division, at tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us. Any questions relating specifically to kitchen audits should be directed to Illinois Farm to School Programs Manager, Diane Chapeta, at diane@sevengenerationsahead.org.

