

Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force

September 25, 2023



GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
FOOD INITIATIVE
CULTIVATING A NEW FOOD SYSTEM



New Mexico
Department of Finance
and Administration

NEW MEXICO
Public Education Department

Background



The Healthy Hunger Free Students' Bill of Rights Act



Review:

- The Healthy Universal School Meals for Children Act (SB4), passed unanimously last session.
- Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed bill into law on 3/22/23.
- \$22.5 million for free higher quality healthy meals for more than 300,000 New Mexico children.
- \$20 million for capital improvement projects for schools.



Our Approach



1 Healthy, free meals for all - To ensure that every New Mexico student has access to high quality meals at no cost, the state will cover the price for all meals without consideration of students' eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meals. A tiered, performance-based reimbursement will result in higher quality meals for all New Mexico students.

2 New Mexico Grown incentive - The state is taking this one step further by incentivizing schools to purchase even more local, high-quality, and healthy ingredients from New Mexico farmers, ranchers, and food businesses.

3 School kitchen infrastructure improvement - Invest in school kitchen equipment and upgrades so that schools have what they need to prepare more healthy, scratch-cooked meals for students.

4 School nutrition workforce and infrastructure investment - Support collaboration between universities, colleges, and other essential organizations to improve K-12 meal quality and strengthen nutrition workforce pathways in K-12 settings.

5 Food waste prevention and rescue - Schools will achieve the lowest level of food waste by ensuring longer seat time for students in grades K-5, and rescuing food for reuse when possible.



Transforming School Meals



School Meal Landscape



200

**School Food
Authorities**

815

School Sites

305,093

Students

68%

**State Free
and
Reduced
Percentage**

School Kitchen Infrastructure Improvement (SKII) Funding





Needs Assessment Findings

The state conducted a infrastructure needs assessment:

- Surveyed 137 schools/districts/program sponsors.
- The surveyed group serves roughly 19,259 students at least once a day.
- Many of those surveyed need funding to improve cafeteras/kitchens to expand the access to food for students during school days.
- Summary of needs assessment:

There is a substantial need to improve cafeteras/kitchens statewide.



The total cost of the improvements requested: \$31,154,295.



Food Security Grant

In 2022, the Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, in coordination with the Department of Finance and Administration, awarded local entities New Mexico Food Security Grants to ensure that individuals and families throughout New Mexico have access to food, with a special focus on multi-sector collaborations that increase food security for all residents. Schools across the state were among those who were awarded funding.

The total amended amount for the school important projects was **\$1,119,376**.

Entity	Equipment	Vehicles	Real Property	Services	Other	Total Requested
Bern Co - RGAFAs	\$ 24,440.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,440.57
Bernalillo PSD	\$ 38,472.48	\$ 405,840.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 444,313.00
Bloomfield School District	\$ 71,480.55	\$ 42,894.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114,374.55
Cuba ISD	\$ 7,117.01	\$ 33,482.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,599.01
Dulce ISD	\$ 15,502.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,412.90	\$ 180,915.85
Farmington MSD	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 39,435.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,560.00
Logan MSD	\$ 2,630.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,630.19
Mora ISD	\$ 68,374.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,374.61
Santa Fe Indian School	\$ 97.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 894.00	\$ 39,741.23
South Valley Prep	\$ 65,524.51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,524.51



Purpose of SKII Funds

The purpose of these funds is to provide statewide funding for kitchen equipment, kitchen infrastructure upgrades, and kitchen renovations to encourage the preparation of school meals that are scratch cooked and freshly prepared.

Funds are expected to be expended on capital improvements that will:

- Increase a school's capacity to prepare and serve meals.
- Improve the nutritional quality of food served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).
- Increase the availability of school meals that are freshly prepared and cooked from scratch.
- Increase access to school meals that are prepared with minimally processed ingredients that are locally sourced when possible.
- Improve food waste reduction and food reuse efforts.

Funding Overview



- Eligible applicants include public school districts, charter schools, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, and Tribally controlled schools. Eligible applicants must be operating the NSLP and SBP.
- Funding is limited and the application process will be competitive. Applications are due November 17, 2023.
- June 2025 expenditure date.



Funding Categories



Project proposals will be accepted in the following priority areas:

- 1) Kitchen infrastructure and equipment – to include cooking, service, refrigeration, and storage equipment; transportation of ingredients, meals, and equipment between meal sites; and processing, packaging, storage, and transportation equipment for food waste reduction efforts.
- 2) Kitchen renovation and construction – to construct a structure or space, but not including furnishings or movable equipment; electrical and plumbing upgrades; and any other support infrastructure needs for infrastructure or equipment that improves the quality of – and access to – fresh and nutritious school meals.



Selection Criteria

The review committee will select applications for funding based upon analysis of the submitted response.

Selections will be made based on the following criteria.

- Impact to school meal quality
- Demonstrated need
- Sustainability of efforts



Examples of Unallowable Expenses



- Indirect costs
- Health inspections
- Heating/air duct maintenance
- Custodial services
- Paintings or murals
- Security systems
- Equipment or infrastructure not for the use of the food service department





Funding Process

Process:

- DFA and PED communicate with Schools/Districts inviting them to apply for funding.
- Webinar date - Monday, October 16, 2023.
- Application form opens after the webinar on Monday, October 16, 2023.
- Schools/Districts submit project applications related to cafeteria/kitchen improvements, purchasing equipment, replacing freezers/refrigerators, and other items related to implementation of SB4.
- DFA and PED scores and ranks applications.
- DFA makes the awards and issues grant agreements to each recipient.

Funding Process



Process:

- Each recipient will receive approval from their governing body and execute the grant agreement.
- Once the grant agreement is executed, a Notice of Obligation (NOO) will be submitted to DFA for approval of use of the funds.
- Once NOO approval is granted, the purchase or construction can begin.
- Grantee will then submit reimbursement requests as expenditures are made through the submission of the Pay Request Form.
- The grantee will be required to submit quarterly reports on the progress of the project.
- The grantee will be required to submit a final report with their final reimbursement request.
- A final report will be created by DFA showing all of the projects funded.

2023 SKII Funding Timeline



Date	Activity
October 16, 2023	Release of Request for Project Applications
November 17, 2023	Application deadline
December 15, 2023	FY25 funding request determined
December 15, 2023	Grant agreements distributed to awardees
June 30, 2025	Fund expenditure deadline

Thank You

