



USDA Grants Needed to Help Kentucky Serve Healthy School Meals

52 schools in the state received grants to help enhance school kitchens

This fact sheet is one in a 10-part series highlighting the need for more school kitchen equipment grants to help ensure that children receive healthy school meals.

Overview

The nutritional quality of school meals has a significant impact on the health of the children who eat them. Each day, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs serve more than 30 million and 14 million children, respectively, providing healthy food for kids.¹ However, this frequently requires schools to work around equipment and infrastructure challenges in ways that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable.

Kentucky at a Glance

- 89 percent of school districts needed at least one piece of equipment to better serve nutritious foods as of the 2012-13 school year.*
- The median cost of equipment needs per school was \$50,000 in the 2012-13 school year, compared with approximately \$37,000 nationally.†
- The state received \$613,036 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for school kitchen equipment upgrades in fiscal year 2014.‡

* The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.

† Ibid.

‡ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "Fiscal Year 2014 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities" (memorandum, April 18, 2014).

Although 70 percent of school districts in Kentucky have at least some budget for kitchen equipment upgrades,² U.S. Department of Agriculture grants are critical to helping schools with greater needs. Fifty-two schools in the state received funding in fiscal 2014 to purchase kitchen equipment.³ (See Table 1.)

Policymakers have a chance to make a big difference in many school systems by helping them purchase the new and better tools they need to serve healthier foods more efficiently. Congress has provided such support since 2009 in the form of grant funding through annual appropriations, including \$30 million in fiscal 2016, which is distributed to school districts via state agencies.⁴ For fiscal 2017, the president's budget includes \$35 million for the grants.⁵ Now Congress has the opportunity to match that request and make certain that more schools have access to these much-needed resources.

Additionally, the bipartisan School Food Modernization Act (S. 540/H.R. 3316) would maintain schools' access to modern kitchen equipment and infrastructure, and strengthen workforce training through the child nutrition reauthorization legislation.⁶ By co-sponsoring the act, members of Congress can help make upgrading school kitchens and ensuring that students receive the healthy meals they need a national priority.

Table 1

Congress Should Appropriate Funding to Help More Schools

USDA grants by Kentucky congressional district, school food authority, and amount, FY 2014

Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant
KY-1	Allen County Schools	Allen County Primary Center	\$20,000.00
KY-1	Allen County Schools	James E. Bazzell Middle School	\$20,000.00
KY-1	Ballard County Schools	Ballard Memorial High School/ Ballard County Middle School	\$19,000.00
KY-1	Casey County School District	Casey County Middle School	\$17,273.00
KY-1	Fulton County Schools	Fulton County High School	\$25,000.00
KY-1	Fulton County Schools	Fulton County Elementary/ Middle School	\$25,000.00
KY-1	Fulton Independent Schools	Fulton City High School	\$25,000.00
KY-1	Henderson County Schools	Jefferson Elementary School	\$15,611.60
KY-1	Henderson County Schools	South Middle School	\$15,611.60

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant
KY-1	Marshall County Schools	South Marshall Elementary School	\$20,000.00
KY-1	Mayfield Independent School District	Mayfield High School	\$13,000.00
KY-1	Mayfield Independent School District	Mayfield Middle School	\$25,000.00
KY-1	McCracken County Schools	Lone Oak Elementary School	\$16,272.21
KY-1	McLean County Public Schools	Livermore Elementary School	\$20,000.00
KY-2	Bullitt County Public Schools	Bullitt Alternative Center	\$17,500.00
KY-2	Bullitt County Public Schools	Bullitt Lick Middle School	\$20,700.00
KY-2	Meade County Board of Education	Flaherty Elementary School	\$16,000.00
KY-3	Jefferson County Public Schools	Valley High School	\$25,000.00
KY-3	Jefferson County Public Schools	Carter/DuValle Family Resource Center	\$25,000.00
KY-3	Jefferson County Public Schools	Central High School	\$25,000.00
KY-3	Jefferson County Public Schools	Fairdale High School	\$25,000.00
KY-3	Jefferson County Public Schools	Minors Lane Elementary School	\$25,000.00
KY-4	Ashland Independent Schools	Crabbe Elementary School	\$25,000.00
KY-4	Campbell County Schools	Donald E. Cline Elementary School	\$23,773.00
KY-4	Carroll County Schools	Carroll County Middle School	\$21,174.06

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant
KY-4	Eminence Independent Schools	Eminence Elementary School	\$25,000.00
KY-4	Ashland Independent Schools	Poage Elementary School	\$25,000.00
KY-4	Fairview Independent Schools	Fairview Elementary School	\$20,029.32
KY-4	Ludlow Independent Schools	Ludlow Independent School	\$25,000.00
KY-4	Mason County Schools	Mason County High School	\$18,000.00
KY-4	Mason County Schools	Straub Elementary School	\$7,500.00
KY-4	Newport Independent Schools	Newport Middle School	\$19,751.00
KY-4	Newport Independent Schools	Newport Primary School	\$19,751.00
KY-4	Owen County Schools	Owen County Lower Elementary School	\$24,000.00
KY-4	Trimble County Schools	Bedford Elementary School	\$16,500.00
KY-5	Bell County School District	Bell Central School Center	\$25,000.00
KY-5	Bell County School District	Right Fork School Center	\$15,000.00
KY-5	Corbin Independent Schools	Corbin Educational Center	\$10,770.00
KY-5	Harlan County Public Schools	James A. Cawood Elementary School	\$21,047.00
KY-5	Laurel County Public Schools	North Laurel High School	\$16,000.00
KY-5	Lee County School District	Lee County Elementary School (formerly, Southside Elementary School)	\$25,000.00

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant
KY-5	Morgan County Schools	Morgan County High School	\$22,055.00
KY-5	Morgan County Schools	Morgan County Middle School	\$22,055.00
KY-5	Perry County Schools	Perry County Central High School	\$25,000.00
KY-6	Casey County School District	Liberty Elementary School	\$17,273.00
KY-6	Clinton County Schools	Clinton County High School	\$25,000.00
KY-6	Estill County Schools	South Irvine Pre-K Center	\$25,000.00
KY-6	Fleming County Schools	E.P. Ward Elementary School	\$20,000.00
KY-6	Powell County Schools	Powell County High School	\$8,100.00
KY-6	Powell County Schools	Powell County Middle School	\$16,200.00
KY-6	Wolfe County	Red River Valley Elementary School	\$4,500.00
KY-6	Wolfe County	Wolfe County Middle School	\$20,000.00

Notes: Total dollars allocated from the USDA to states and from states to schools may be different because of variation between projected and final equipment costs.

Source: Kentucky Department of Education

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Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "National School Lunch Program: Participation and Lunches Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)"; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "School Breakfast Program: Participation and Meals Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)," <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables>.
- 2 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.
- 3 Kentucky Department of Education, pers. comm., April 1, 2016.
- 4 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2016 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants," last modified Feb. 1, 2016, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/2016-nslp-equipment-assistance-grants>.
- 5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2017 Explanatory Notes," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.obpa.usda.gov/32fns2017notes.pdf>.
- 6 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Give Schools the Tools to Prepare Healthy, Delicious Meals" (Feb. 20, 2015), <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/02/give-schools-the-tools-to-prepare-healthy-delicious-meals>.

For further information, please visit:

pewtrusts.org/kitchen-equipment

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