

USDA FY23 School Breakfast Expansion Grant

Q&A

1. **What is the purpose of the grant?** To improve the quality and nutritional standards of breakfast food served using less sodium and sugar and serving a variety of protein sources, whole grains, milk, fruits and vegetables.
2. **How do I know if my SFA qualifies?** All schools, having or desiring to initiate a SBP prior to January 3, 2024, in which 40 percent or more of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) lunches served to students at the school were served free or at a reduced price in September, October and November of 2022, are qualified.
3. **How do I know which schools in my SFA qualify?** DPI will determine which schools in your SFA qualify using claims your SFA submitted for reimbursement in SY 2022-2023. The application link with a list of eligible schools will be emailed to each SFA in November 2023.
4. **What if I think my school qualifies but DPI data doesn't show it does?** Contact DPISBP@dpi.wi.gov to discuss your situation with a School Breakfast Specialist.
5. **How do I apply?** First, your SFA's Food Service Director and any other interested staff needs to attend an Information Session. Receive and retain a Certificate of Completion for that Information Session. Second, an application link will be sent to the Authorized Representative for each SFA with qualifying schools in November. The Authorized Rep will sign the application and submit it.
6. **When is the grant application due?** The application will close at 11:59 PM on December 1, 2023.
7. **When do we find out if we got the grant?** Grant awards will be announced by January 5, 2023.
8. **How much money can we receive?** The maximum amount each SFA can receive is \$20,000 over two years. Award amounts will be based on the number of qualifying schools in your SFA and the number of students enrolled in those schools.
9. **What is this Implementation Plan mentioned in the required timeline?** Your SFA, in cooperation with school breakfast specialists at DPI, will come up with a plan for how you will use the grant funds to improve the quality and nutritional standards of breakfast food served using less sodium and sugar and serving a variety of protein sources, whole grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. You will submit this implementation plan to SNT in May 2024.
10. **What can we use the money for?** Grant funds can be used for labor, equipment, training, promotional materials or activities, supplies, or any reasonable and allocable cost which will improve the nutritional content or quality of breakfast at the qualifying schools. Please note that grant funds cannot be used to purchase food.
11. **May our school apply more than once?** No. Each SFA with qualifying schools may only apply once.
12. **When will we receive grant funds?** There will be two payment allocations which are dependent on completing grant activities and submitting documentation. The first payment will be made in June 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. The second payment will be made in June 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year.

13. **What if we don't have a breakfast program?** In order to be eligible for grant funds, schools that do not currently operate a School Breakfast Program must start one by January 3, 2024 and qualify using the determining data in Question 1.
14. **Can we use the grant to buy a used grab and go cart?** Yes, grant funds could be used to purchase equipment as long as that equipment is solely for use in the School Breakfast Program and will improve the nutritional content and/or quality of breakfast.
15. **Can we use the grant to pay staff to prepare breakfast?** Yes, grant funds could be used for staff and labor in order to improve the nutritional content and/or quality of breakfast.
16. **Will there be more grants available in SY 2025-2026 to continue to expand our breakfast program?** At this time there has been no indication that the School Breakfast Program Expansion Grant will be repeated.
17. **What if we don't have a breakfast program?** In order to be eligible for grant funds, schools that do not currently operate a School Breakfast Program must start one by January 3, 2024 and qualify using the determining data in Question 1.
18. **What can we do if we have a Vended Meal Agreement, or use a Food Service Management Company?** Begin by having a conversation with them about your desire to improve the nutritional quality of the breakfast served. Request nutrition facts on each breakfast menu item they provide to you. You could then consider nutrition education and program promotion efforts that your SFA would do. Training your school serving staff (not contracted staff), and focusing on perceptions of breakfast quality are additional approaches.
19. **Is my SFA allowed to use the funds to subsidize the full paid and reduced student breakfasts to make breakfast "free" for all?** The purpose of the FY23 SBE grant is to improve the quality and nutritional standards of breakfast food served using less sodium and sugar and serving a variety of protein sources, whole grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. Offering breakfast free to all students would not improve the nutritional quality of what you are currently serving.