2018 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance
Grant Application Scoring Criteria
(115 total points)

Summary of the 115 point scoring criteria:

Scoring will be based on the following areas:

Points for Site Need:

A) Percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price (F/RP) meals (Up to 30 pts)

B) Description of the site need for equipment grant (Up to 15 pts)

C) Points for Impact (Up to 15 pts)

D) The SFA did not previously receive grant funds in 2009 - 2016 (Up to 15 pts)

Points for Equipment:

E) Documentation of how funding will support specified efforts (Up to 15 pts)

F) Points for meeting the four Focus areas: (Up to 25 pts)

Description of Scoring:

Points for Site Need:

A) Percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price (F/RP) meals (**Up to 30 points**)

- 30 points for sites that have 50 – 100 percent F/RP student eligibility
- 15 points for sites that have 26 – 49 percent F/RP student eligibility
- 5 points for sites that have 0 – 25 percent F/RP student eligibility

B) Description of the site need for equipment grant (**Up to 15 points**)

- 15 points for sites that make a strong case for need of the grant. A strong case will have specific data and information that backs up the applicant's need (e.g., equipment has not been replaced in over 15 years; lack of equipment prevents the site applicant from serving anything that is not pre-packaged or from competing for different vendors; school is in a low-income area where unemployment is at "X" percent and the school needs "Y" equipment to increase their service capacity in response to higher rate of F/RP children).

- 10 points for sites that make an average case for need of the grant. An average case will be lacking in specifics but is relevant to the application goals (e.g., equipment is old and outdated and food quality can be improved with new equipment; equipment will allow the school to purchase necessary equipment to start serving breakfast in the classroom or a salad bar). These statements are informative but lack specific details.

- 5 points for sites that make a weak case for need of the grant. A weak case will lack specifics and does not describe a need for a grant.

C) Points for Impact: (**Up to 15 points**)

- 15 points for applicants that identify the equipment will impact at least 500 students, or have sites that anticipate at least 50% F/RP eligible students will benefit from the equipment.

- 10 points for applicants that identify the equipment will impact at least 250 students, or have sites that anticipate at least 50% F/RP eligible students will benefit from the equipment.

- 5 points for applicants that identify the equipment will impact less than 250 students, or have sites that anticipate at least 50% F/RP eligible students will benefit from the equipment.

D) Points for not receiving equipment grant funds previously: **(Up to 15 points)**

- 15 points for applicants that did not previously receive equipment grant funding (FY 2009- 2017).

- 0 points for applicants that received NSLP Equipment Grant funding in 2009 - 2017.

Points for Equipment:

E) Documentation of how funding will support specified efforts (**Up to 15 points**)

Sites will be awarded the most points for making a strong case, including documentation, for the equipment being essential to making achievements in one or more of the following four focus areas, with a specific emphasis on impacting nutritional quality, serving healthier meals, and meeting nutritional standards:

1. impact nutritional quality, serve healthier meals, and meet nutritional standards

2. improve food safety

3. improve energy efficiency of food service

4. expand participation

- 15 points for sites that make a strong case for the equipment being necessary for making achievements in one or more of the four focus areas. A strong case must define numbers and percentages in identifying need and impact (e.g., equipment will reduce energy costs by 25 percent; equipment will replace a deep fryer with a steamer and eliminate 60 percent of fried foods in the cafeteria; equipment will expand refrigeration capacity, which will decrease delivery costs, and with "X" savings the LEA can buy a salad bar in order to serve "X" percent more fresh fruits and vegetables; equipment will allow school to start serving breakfast in the classroom and increase breakfast participation by at least 90 percent). Additionally, to receive all 15 points, an SFA must specifically document how the equipment will impact nutritional quality, serve healthier meals, and meet nutritional standards.

- 10 points for sites that make an average case for the equipment being necessary for making achievements in one or more of the four focus areas. An average case will draw a strong correlation between the need and impact of equipment but may fail to identify specific numbers or percentages when identifying need and impact (e.g., it is necessary to replace the fryer with a steamer so the school can serve healthier foods; the school needs to expand the refrigeration capacity so that it can cut down on delivery costs). These statements are informative but lack specific details.

- 5 points for sites that present a weak case for why this equipment is necessary for achieving one or more of the four focus areas. A weak case will lack specifics and does not describe a need for a grant. (e.g., equipment will increase food safety but

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applicant fails to describe how; equipment will expand refrigeration capacity but applicant fails to describe how the increased capacity will impact their food service program).

E) Points for meeting the four Focus areas: (**Up to 25 points**)

- 10 points for impacting nutritional quality, serving healthier meals, and meeting nutritional standards
  - Providing fresh fruits and vegetables at lunch or breakfast
  - Increasing variety of entrees
  - Cooking from scratch

- 5 points for improving food safety

- 5 points for improving energy efficiency of food service
  - Increasing storage and decrease frequency of deliveries

- 5 points for expanding participation