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Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

Christine Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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January 30, 2023

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Education to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Child Nutrition National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance funds in the amount of \$132,083.00 from the United States Department of Agriculture, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds

Funds to be budgeted as follows:

FNS-CN NSLP EQUIPMENT ARPA

Account: 06-56-56-562010-26XXXXXX

| Class | Description | FY 23 |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| 000-404489 | Federal Funds | (\$132,083) |
| <u>Expenditures</u> | | |
| 072-500577 | Grants Federal | \$132,083 |

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EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Education Department (NHED), Bureau of Student Wellness, Office of Nutrition Programs and Services received the Child Nutrition National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants. These resources will be referred to as National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants (NSLPEA).

Equipment Assistance Grant funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (P.L. 117-2) under section §1001 (b)(4). The additional funding will support school food authorities (SFAs) in providing healthy and appealing meals by meeting vital food service equipment needs.

Schools can use this funding to purchase equipment for a variety of important improvements for the food service such as purchasing tools that support scratch cooking, storing fresh food from local producers, and receiving food deliveries in a more efficient manner. These improvements will be used to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency by increasing the efficiency of SFA procurement, for example by enabling a wider variety of food purchases through scratch cooking. In addition, timely award of these Equipment Assistance Grants will benefit recipient SFAs by enabling them to meet equipment needs associated with a return to standard operating procedures. SFAs are encouraged, as part of their equipment purchases, to take advantage of the training offered by the companies on how to use their specific equipment.

State agencies must competitively award subgrants to SFAs and schools to purchase equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, support scratch cooking, improve food safety, store fresh food, upgrade equipment, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the SBP. State agencies are encouraged to support as many SFAs with equipment needs as possible with this funding. Equipment must be purchased, used, managed, and disposed of in accordance with the governing 2 CFR requirements.

The NHED has been awarded the requested \$132,083 for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant and one hundred percent of the grant award will be allocated to all eligible program operators. The state will allocate the funds no later than September 30, 2023, and obligated funds will be expended no later than September 30, 2024.

The NHED, upon receipt of regulatory and guidance documents from the United States Department of Agriculture, will reimburse funds to NSLP and SBP program sponsors based on the payment calculation provided by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The NHED will pay reimbursements and deliver funds via the existing reporting and application software, the online MyNHDOE Food and Nutrition System (F&N).

In support of the objectives noted above, the Department commits to: The notification must include the SFA's calculated payment amount, information on the proper use of funds, and instructions for completing the required attestation of need/eligibility as a prerequisite for accepting funds. The department commits to document and retain records of all activities related to its administration of this reimbursement program, consistent with standard review and recordkeeping requirements of the Child Nutrition Programs.

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The following appropriation authorities are being requested:

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Class Description</u> | <u>Explanation</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| 072 | Grants – Federal | Appropriation for the distribution of funds to grant sub- recipients. |

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education

| REPORT # | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE | | | | FCT / 100 | |
|---|---------------|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| GRANT AWARD DOCUMENT | | | | | | | |
| 1. GRANTOR AGENCY: USDA - Food and Nutrition Service | | | | 2. APPROPRIATION: See below under Appropriation column | | | |
| 3. NH EDUCATION DEPT. BUS MA 101 Pleasant Street CONCORD VENDOR NO. 51391501 000 | | | | 4. TITLE OF GRANT: OSEC AM RES NTI 03301 | | | |
| 5. APPOINTMENT YEAR: 2023 GAD NUMBER: 49H205031 | | | | 6. ESTIMATED ANNUAL GRANT AWARD: AMENDMENT: 000 | | | |
| 7. GRANT PERIOD FROM: 10/01/2022 GRANT PERIOD TO: 09/30/2024 | | | | | | | |
| APPROPRIATION | FY | ACCOUNT ID | PCA TITLE | CFDA NO. | PREVIOUS LEVEL | INCREASE/DECREASE | CURRENT LEVEL |
| 12X0408 | 23-0000315003 | 2023212887344 | - SCHOOL LUNCH EQUIP GRANTS (| 10.579 | 50.00 | \$132,083.00 | \$132,083.00 |
| Total: | | | | | | \$0.00 | \$132,083.00 |
| 9. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS | | | | | | | |
| <p>Please note that the Financial Official (FO) assigned by the above grantee organization is responsible for maintaining valid banking information for this grant. This includes certifying that correct routing and transit numbers (ABA/R/TN) and bank account numbers have been entered into the ASAP.gov payment system. The Food and Nutrition Service and the United States Treasury are not responsible for a misdirected payment in the event that the FO entered the incorrect ABA/R/TN or bank account number information.</p> <p>NSLP School Equipment Grant (ARPA Funds)</p> | | | | | | | |
| 10. AUTHORIZATION ALLOWANCE HOLDER (DESIGNEE) | | | | SIGNATURE: - Electronically Signed by - JORIN PEDICINI | | | |
| Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Office 10 Caspary Street, Room 501 Boston MA 02222 Telephone: 617-565-1300 | | | | DATE: 01/03/2023 | | TELEPHONE NO: 617-565-6435 | |