

## ARRA Equipment Grant Questions April 16, 2009

1. Since our district's capitalization threshold is \$750, does that mean that the equipment value should be greater than \$750?

The equipment per unit acquisition cost must be the lesser of \$5,000 or the SFAs capitalization threshold. For example: If your SFAs capitalization threshold is \$750, then each piece of equipment requested, must cost \$750 or more.

2. Several of the charter schools that we service are being claimed as sites under the local districts (the local district is the SFA). Does the SFA need to apply for this grant or can individual sites apply?

Yes, the SFA is responsible for applying for pieces of equipment for sites under their sponsorship.

3. Is piggybacking ok?

Yes, piggybacking is allowable for use when procuring items under the equipment assistance grant providing the originator has executed a compliant contract which meets all USDA procurement rules (7CFR 210 and 7 CFR 3016 or 7 CFR 3019). Both the contract originator as well as the contractor must agree to allow the sponsor to piggyback on the contract, and the contractor must agree to provide the equipment at or below the specified contract price. Please reference Florida School Board Rule 6A-1.012(6) when using this provision.

### **6A-1.012**

(6) In lieu of requesting competitive solicitations from three (3) or more sources, district school boards may make purchases at or below the specified prices from contracts awarded by other city or county governmental agencies, other district school boards, community colleges, federal agencies, the public or governmental agencies of any state, or from state university system cooperative bid agreements, when the proposer awarded a contract by another entity defined herein will permit purchases by a district school board at the same terms, conditions, and prices (or below such prices) awarded in such contract, and such purchases are to the economic advantage of the district school board.

4. Is one signature sufficient on the Certification Form for the 2009 Equipment Assistance Grant for School Food Authorities? In other words, if our agency's Executive Director signs on the first line ("Signature of F.S. Director"), would that be sufficient?

No, the person responsible for food service operations must sign and the Superintendent or Designee (who could be an Executive Director) must sign in the designated area.

5. What does EN% mean?

Economically Needy percent is the eligible percent of free and reduced price students.

6. Will you be letting us know how many districts respond saying they are applying?

Yes, we will let everyone know how many sponsors gave FNM a Notice of Intent-to-Apply. Please be reminded that providing the Intent-to-Apply is not required for an application to be considered, but assists the applicant by assuring receipt of answers to Frequently Asked Questions and competition updates.

7. With the application process, do I write a narrative that covers all of the equipment we are requesting? Under Part 2 and 3, it states "justify the need" - is this the 250 word or less narrative?

You must write a narrative for each Project Component (e.g. 1. Project Need, 2. Project Justification, 3. Budget/Equipment Justification) that is 250 words or less (pages 5-7). The instructions describe what the applicant is to include in each Project Component. Following the Instructions, within each Project Component, are Criteria. These are the bulleted, italicized statements used by proposal reviewers to assess and score each Component.

8. How was the number of 198 awards decided?

One hundred ninety-eight (198) is the total number of sponsors that have been on the NSLP for at least two years or more.

9. For something like a serving line, that has a number of different pieces at different prices, would you state "one line" for \$20,000 or each piece and their individual price?

Use one line.

10. What month should we use for the percentage of EN% column on the Funding Request Summary Chart on page 10?

The month of February should be used.