



Illinois  
State Board of  
Education

# THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition Programs

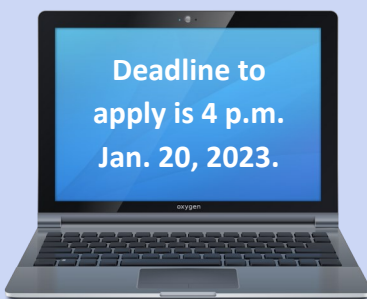
## NSLP EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

# APPLY TODAY!

**T**he U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service provides funding to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to provide equipment assistance through competitive grants to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the federally funded National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Funds allocated for this program are intended to assist schools in purchasing equipment 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 School Breakfast Program (SBP). Funds can be used for NSLP and/or SBP.

ISBE was allocated \$864,538 (provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022) and an additional \$1,433,117 (provided by the American Rescue Plan Act), for a total of \$2,297,655 available to competitively award NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants to SFAs in this round of funding.

ISBE has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for SFAs to apply on behalf of their NSLP schools for grant funding. SFAs can request funds to replace, renovate, or purchase new kitchen equipment that meets the intended purposes of this grant.



Regarding eligibility, all Illinois SFAs participating in the federally funded National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply for participating schools under their jurisdiction. An SFA is defined as a governing body that is responsible for the administration of one or more schools and has the legal authority to operate NSLP therein.

All SFAs with schools in NSLP are eligible to apply, but priority will be given in the following areas: schools where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals; schools that have not previously received a NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant within the last five award cycles; schools that also participate in the School Breakfast Program; and schools

that prepare meals on site using district-owned equipment or, through this grant, will be able to start preparing meals on site without a school-to-school agreement or vended or food service management contract.

For full details, see the Notice of Funding Opportunity and information on how to apply on the [NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant webpage](#). **The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Jan. 20, 2023.** If you have any questions regarding this funding opportunity, contact Emily Durbin at [edurbin@isbe.net](mailto:edurbin@isbe.net).

## NEWS BITES

### FARM TO SCHOOL



The closing date for **FY 23 Farm to School Grant** applications is Jan. 6, 2023. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will award up to \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the Farm to School Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2023. Get started by visiting the [Grants.Gov webpage](#) and ["Resources" webpage](#).



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The [Institute of Child Nutrition](#) has more Virtual Instructor-Led Trainings in January, February, and March. The trainings are free but are limited to 25 participants per session. Training topics include "Nutrition 101," "Inventory Management and Tracking," and more. ICN is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Register at <https://theicn.org/vilt/>.



### U OF I EXTENSION

The [University of Illinois Extension's ABCs of School Nutrition initiative](#) has three online trainings scheduled in the new year, including food handler training. [Registration is under way online.](#)

ISBE partners with the U of I Ext. to provide free resources and trainings to support School Nutrition Programs in Illinois.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

# SY 24 Annual Order Period Opens Jan. 9

**T**he School Year 2023-24 annual order period for the Food Distribution Program opens Jan. 9. The three spending options include, USDA Foods, DOD Fresh, and diversion to processors.

The diversion to processors option will close in in the Illinois Commodity System from Feb. 20 to Feb. 24, so that ISBE Nutrition Department staff can compile truck loads. It will re-open Feb. 27 for final changes. All diversion to processor requests are

due by March 6.

Please refer to the [ICS Instructions](#) for step by step instructions on placing an order. Please refer to the [How to Place an Annual Order](#) recorded training for additional guidance. For those interested in the diversion to processor spending option, please review the slides from our in-person [USDA Foods Show](#) on Dec. 8, in Springfield, IL. We also have a [webinar](#) available.

Please email [fdp@isbe.net](mailto:fdp@isbe.net) with

## Additional DOD Funds Now Available for SY 22-23

**T**he state has additional DOD funds available now for school districts participating in the Food Distribution Program. You may request funds, by following the procedures below:

1. Please spend your allotted DOD funds before requesting additional funds.
2. Email Paula Williams at [pawillia@isbe.net](mailto:pawillia@isbe.net) to request additional funds.

3. Additional funds will be added in increments of 20% of your SY 23 Beginning PAL Balance. For example, if your Beginning PAL Balance was \$20,000, we will add \$4,000.
4. If you use all additional funds, you can request more at that time, following this same process.

Please email any questions to [pawillia@isbe.net](mailto:pawillia@isbe.net).



Thank you to everyone who attended ISBE's USDA Foods Show on Dec. 8 in Springfield! If you need to review the training slides from the event, they are on the [USDA Foods Show webpage](#).



# ILSNA 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

### JOIN US AT THE 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The 2023 ILSNA Winter Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at the NIU Naperville Conference Center. The conference will kick off with a welcome reception on Tuesday evening, February 7 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville hotel. The Industry Advisory Board is planning a conference that provides opportunities to connect with your peers, earn CEUs and meet with industry representatives to learn about new products and services. Register today!

For more information, please visit  
[WWW.ILSNA.NET/WINTERCONFERENCE2023](http://WWW.ILSNA.NET/WINTERCONFERENCE2023)



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## Events, Meetings, and Deadlines

- Jan. 5 – [SY 23-24 USDA Foods Available List Survey deadline](#)
- Jan. 5 – CICN Webinar: [“Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens”](#)
- Jan. 6 – [FY 23 Farm to School Grant application deadline](#)
- Jan. 9 – [Food Distribution Program: SY 24 Annual Order Period Opens](#)
- Jan. 11 – [“Serve It Safely: Food Handler Training”](#)
- Jan. 16 – ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20 – [NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant application deadline](#)
- Feb. 8 – [ILSNA Winter Conference](#) (Welcome Reception, 6-8 p.m. Feb. 7)

*Please note this is not a complete list of Nutrition Department events, meetings, and deadlines. Visit us online at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).*

## What's New?

- [Action Steps for Second Round of Supply Chain Assistance Funds](#)
- [SFAs Tentatively Selected for SY 22-23 Administrative Review](#)

*Watch for our latest news and posts under What's New? at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).*

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

