

Center for Science in the Public Interest Statewide Healthy School Meals for All & Community-Driven Policy Campaign to Advance Health Equity through School Meals



Logistics for Today's Webinar

Please keep your microphone on mute.

We will have an approximately 15-minute presentation followed by 45 minutes for Q&A and discussion.

All questions should be asked through the chat, where people will be monitoring them and helping to facilitate the conversation.

Today's webinar will also be recorded and made available on our website in the coming days.

Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)

Since 1971, CSPI has worked to:

- Make it easier to eat healthfully
- Prevent and mitigate diet-related diseases

Our Strategies:

- National, state, local policy
- Partnerships with state and local organizations
- Education (newsletter, social media)
- Advocacy (regulatory, legislative)
- Litigation



CSPI School Foods Work

Key Priorities:

- School foods meet strong, evidence-based nutrition standards
- School meals provided at no cost to all children

Background:

- Led the advocacy work to update the nutrition standards in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010



Healthy School Meals for All: Where We Are

- Federal Waivers have allowed HSM4A during pandemic
- Waivers expire June 30th
- Two states have passed Healthy School Meals for All
 - California and Maine (VT is close behind)



State Policy Grant: Healthy School Meals for All

We are accepting applications for funding for up to **\$70,000** in direct costs for up to **15 months**. Funds can support:

- Lobbying activities
- Non-lobbying activities

Application Priorities:

- *Funded campaigns must seek to secure a binding government policy.* Voluntary or programmatic initiatives are not eligible.
- Diverse organizations who are either representative of the population or are directly partnering with individuals and or community organizations representing the population.
 - If a white-led organization, we recommend that a minimum of 25% of grant supports organizations and/or individuals from communities most impacted by health disparities.
- Informed by community needs



Priority states: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont. These represent priority states for federal advocacy related to school meals.

Additional areas of advocacy (encouraged, not required)

- Protecting and strengthening the school food nutrition standards
- Increased reimbursement and technical assistance on nutrition standards
- Seat time/mealtime requirements
- Eliminate synthetic food dyes and artificial sweeteners
- Funding for kitchen equipment
- Summer meals nutrition standards

Applications are welcome to include additional priorities not listed.

Community-Driven Policy Campaign to Advance Health Equity through School Meals

We are accepting applications for funding for up to **\$70,000 in direct costs for up to 15 months**

- Innovative strategies that advance health, nutrition, and equity through:
 - the National School Lunch Program (NSLP),
 - School Breakfast Program (SBP),
 - Seamless Summer Option (SSO), or
 - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).



Application Priorities:

- Organizations that are led by and mission-oriented to improving conditions that affect the quality of life for BIPOC individuals
- Authentic community engagement in conceptualizing, designing, and implementing the campaign is required.

Campaign Examples

- Improving access to meals in and out of school;
- Improving the healthfulness of school foods;
- Exploring opportunities to enhance cultural competency and celebrating students' diverse backgrounds in school meals;
- Minimizing stigma associated with participation in school meals;
- Assessing pay and labor inequities in school meals programs and exploring opportunities to improve employee retention and satisfaction;
- Providing sufficient time to eat and meals after recess;

Applications are welcome to include topics not listed.

Lobbying activities

- Lobbying state lawmakers
- Power mapping to determine grassroots allies (e.g., senior leaders in influential organizations, etc.) to weigh in with the state lawmakers
- Generating support through calls to action with social media, blogs, and action alerts
- Recruiting grassroots to join lobbying meetings and have grassroots conduct separate lobbying meetings;
- Building grassroots for specific calls to action of the state lawmakers (e.g., letter-writing campaigns, action alerts, participating in virtual events with the lawmakers, etc.)

Applications are welcome to include additional lobbying activities not listed

Non-lobbying activities

- Engaging with state and local media (e.g., interviews, op-eds, letter to the editor, editorial memo, etc.)
- Training advocates and/or building local advocacy capacity
- Story banking/collection of stories or any other creative materials developed on the importance of the issue
- Public or coalition meetings to educate and build support among other allies and neutralize opposition on the issue

Applications are welcome to include additional non-lobbying activities not listed.

What's requested in a Letter of Interest (LOI)?

Organization information

- Contact information
- Address
- EIN/Tax ID of org or fiscal sponsor
- Demographic information
- Overview of organization's work in relation to the project proposed
- Organization budget information
- Conflict of interest check

Project details

- Project title
- Estimated duration
- Geographic focus
- Priority population(s) served
- Project summary and rationale
- Project partners

Funding request

- Estimated funding amount
- Percent of estimated funding to be used for lobbying activities

Available Support from CSPI

- Provide resources such as talking points, fact sheets, model legislative language, advocacy toolkit
- Coordinate strategy and provide technical assistance on advocacy;
- Join lobbying visits and other relevant meetings as needed; and
- Conduct training, as needed, for how to do lobbying visits



Next Steps

- Submit your LOI via the application portal by **June 12, 2022**.
- Sign-up on our website if you would like to be alerted when additional grant opportunities open up
- Contact our CSPI team if you have specific questions

For more information:

For more information about our work on school foods:

- <https://www.cspinet.org/advocacy/nutrition/school-food>
- <https://cspinet.org/2022-child-nutrition-reauthorization>

CSPI Grant Opportunities webpage

Cspinet.org -> Get Involved -> Grant Opportunities

Please reach out to us for:

- **General RFP or application inquiries**
- **Specific policy/campaign details or eligibility questions**
- **Technical questions on our Grant Management System**
- **Accessibility concerns**

grants@cspinet.org