

2019 NRPA/WALMART FOUNDATION INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS THROUGH INNOVATION GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GRANT GOALS

Local park and recreation agencies are community health and wellness hubs. For decades, parks and recreation have been one of the largest providers of healthy meals to children in low-income communities through the USDA child nutrition programs, working to address hunger, provide nutrition education, and keep youth safe and engaged during out-of-school times. Building off of this strong foundation and the existing strengths of local park and recreation agencies, NRPA seeks to expand the role and capacity of local parks and recreation to improve food access across diverse communities and generations by piloting and evaluating three innovation strategies.

What are the requirements for this grant?

Grantees are expected to build off their existing nutrition programs (participation in the USDA nutrition programs, nutrition education, community gardening, cooking classes, etc.), and implement one of three broader food access strategies to improve food security across their community:

1. **Farmers Markets:** [Starting or expanding farmers markets](#) and/or community supported agriculture (CSA) programs at P&R sites to increase access to healthy, fresh, and local produce. P&R agencies are uniquely positioned to utilize their existing strengths and assets (facilities, personnel, amenities, programming, social opportunities, inclusive policies, etc.) to expand local agriculture interventions and provide additional avenues that build a healthy food system. Grantees will be encouraged to start new markets or expand existing markets and CSA programs, work towards accepting SNAP/WIC benefits at market locations and offer nutrition education at market sites.
2. **Intergenerational Meal Programs and Adult Care Component (Older Americans Act Title III):** [Starting or expanding intergenerational meal programs](#) through the USDA CACFP and HHS congregate nutrition programs that address the nutritional needs of vulnerable youth and seniors, and foster opportunities for nutrition education, mentorship and social engagement for youth and seniors. While this grant has historically been focused on youth meal programs, NRPA seeks to fund agencies that are feeding both youth and seniors at the same site to foster opportunities for group and one-on-one intergenerational activities.
3. **Improving Transportation:** [Addressing transportation and infrastructure barriers in communities](#) (rural, suburban or urban) by piloting models that leverage existing resources and assets, building partnerships, and utilizing volunteers or innovative systems to transport kids to sites. Models may include formal partnerships with schools/transportation departments/senior transportation services to utilize buses or piloting carpool models. NRPA is particularly interested in piloting models in rural communities as transportation continues to be one of the top barriers to food access in these areas.

NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

Applicants should have a strong nutrition program foundation in place, and at a minimum participate in one or more of the following USDA nutrition programs:

- [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#): SFSPs are run as open or enrolled sites. Open sites receive

reimbursement for all meals and snacks served to participating children ages 18 and under if located in a low-income area, defined as 50 percent or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Enrolled sites serve free meals to all children enrolled in a program with at least 50 percent of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sites can be reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack per day served to each child.

- [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#): The CACFP's [At-Risk Afterschool](#) component provides up to one free snack and one free meal per child in attendance areas where at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The program is available to OST programs during the school year, including on weekends and holidays. Educational and enrichment activities must also be taking place, in addition to the meal program at CACFP sites. If sites also serve older adults age 60 or older, they may also be eligible to participate in the adult care component of CACFP to receive reimbursement for meals and snacks served that meet the adult care meal pattern. Per USDA regulations, adult care centers must be nonresidential and have Federal, State, or local licensing for adult day care services. Additionally, older adult participants must be individually eligible based on income. Meals in the adult care component are reimbursed at free or reduced-price rates based on individual eligibility. CACFP meals can also be served year-round and in conjunction with federal summer meal programs, including SFSP or NSLP for youth ages 18 or younger.
- [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#): The NSLP's [Afterschool Care Snack Service](#) is available for programs sponsored or operated by a school district (School Food Authority) and allows for one snack to be served after the regular school day ends. School sponsors can also offer summer meals and snacks through the [Seamless Summer Option](#) of NSLP. Sites can be located at schools or in the community.
- [Congregate Nutrition Services for Seniors](#): The Administration on Aging (AOA) in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers the Nutrition Services Program, which includes the Congregate Nutrition Services Program (Older Americans Act (OAA)- Title III funding). Congregate nutrition services provide meals and related nutrition services to older individuals in a variety of group settings, such as senior centers, community centers, schools, and adult day care centers. The program also provides seniors with opportunities for social engagement and volunteering. Individuals aged 60 or older may participate in the congregate nutrition program.

Agencies with past experience implementing nutrition education activities will also be prioritized to receive funding.

How do I know if our agency participates in the USDA or Congregate Nutrition Programs?

If your agency is the sponsor of the meal programs you are most likely aware that you participate in them.

If your agency is not the sponsor and meals come to your site from another sponsor (the local school district, food bank, other non-profit, etc.) you also most likely participate in these programs and are eligible to apply for the grant. Meals must be served at sites operated by parks and recreation (park, swimming pool, community center, recreation complex, school site where park and recreation programming takes place, etc.).

The best way to determine if you participate in one of these programs is to contact your meal provider and ask if they participate in the federally reimbursable programs.

ELIGIBILITY

We are a nonprofit organization that partners with our local government park and recreation department.

Can we apply?

Yes. The applicant for the grant can be a local government agency or an affiliated 501c(3) engaged with parks and recreation (e.g. municipal park and recreation department, tribal recreation department, park district, community services department, non-profit health coalition, etc.)

Do we have to be a current member of NRPA in order to apply?

NRPA encourages membership to ensure that your agency has access to the full suite of education and resources available; however, you do not have to be a current member of NRPA to be eligible to apply.

Are we required to serve both summer and before/after school meals through USDA sponsored meal programs? Ideally your agency should serve both summer and before/after school meals through both SFSP, CACFP or NSLP. If you are not currently serving meals during summer and afterschool you will need to indicate in your application how you plan to start a program.

Are we required to be the USDA meal sponsor in order to be eligible to apply?

No, your agency is not required to serve as the USDA sponsor in order to apply for the grant. You may partner with another organization that serves as the sponsor, such as your local school district or another community-based organization.

My agency received an Out-of-School Time grant from NRPA and the Walmart Foundation in previous years. Are we eligible to apply again?

YES! Past grantees are eligible and encouraged to apply for funding.

Are there any required trainings that my agency must attend?

At least one representative from each grantee organization must attend a two day, in-person training, April 17-18, 2019, in Ashburn, Virginia. Grantees may budget \$2,000 for travel expenses. Grantees must also attend a live virtual training in the summer of 2019, focused on program sustainability and action planning.

What are eligible expenses for these grant funds?

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Marketing and promotions within the local community
- Supplies (tables and chairs, nutrition education supplies, for example)
- Food service or transportation equipment (heating or refrigeration units, vehicles, for example)
- Staffing to support program implementation
- SNAP/WIC EBT machines to accept supplemental nutrition programs
- Other basic needs to create or expand access to healthy foods

Funding cannot be used to purchase food for meal programs. However, grant funds can be used to purchase items needed for nutrition education implementation (some activities may require small amounts of food and ingredients).

Please budget accordingly and list this expense as a line item on your proposed budget. All grantees must maintain a detailed program budget and keep receipts. NRPA conducts a random audit of all grant programs. If your agency is selected to participate in the audit, you will be asked to submit your receipts.

What benefits will my agency receive as a grantee?

- Grant funding
- National recognition as an NRPA grantee, including visibility in Parks and Recreation magazine, NRPA's Open Space blog, and NRPA's website
- Training and technical assistance from NRPA and other national leading organizations
- Peer-to-peer support/opportunities to connect with other local park and recreation agencies on an on-going basis
- Participation in an in-depth evaluation, including focus groups, with leading researchers
- An opportunity to have your work featured in a national best practices guide and video

How many grants will be awarded?

We anticipate that 15 grantees will be awarded one-year grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$35,000. All communities will be considered. Agencies are eligible to apply for more than one category, but applicants should ensure that each strategy is a priority for their community. **Should your agency be awarded grant funding in more than one category, you will receive \$30,000-\$35,000 for each category.**

Who should provide a letter of support?

The head of your organization (director, superintendent, etc.). If you are applying on behalf of a 501(c)3, please include a letter of support from your local park and recreation agency.

Why are you asking for a letter of support?

NRPA would like to know that the head of your organization supports not only your application for this grant, but also supports increasing access to healthy foods for your community.

Who should the letter of support be addressed to?

The letter must be provided electronically (a scan, PDF, etc.) and uploaded with your online application, but it can be addressed to:

National Recreation and Park Association
22377 Belmont Ridge Road
Ashburn, VA 20148

When is the application due and when will I be notified?

All applications are due on March 6, 2019. NRPA anticipates notifying all applicants of award status by March 20, 2019.

Who can I contact with questions about this grant?

If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity, please email macquino@nrpa.org.