



USDA Grants Needed to Help California Serve Healthy School Meals

111 schools in the state received grants to enhance their kitchens

This fact sheet is one in a 10-part series highlighting the need for more school kitchen equipment grants to help ensure that children receive healthy school meals.

Overview

The nutritional quality of school meals has a significant impact on the health of the children who eat them. Each day, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs serve more than 30 million and 14 million children, respectively, providing healthy food for kids.¹ However, this frequently requires schools to work around equipment and infrastructure challenges in ways that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable.

California at a Glance

- 93 percent of school districts needed at least one piece of equipment to better serve nutritious foods as of the 2012-13 school year.*
- The median cost of equipment needs per school was \$59,000 in the 2012-13 school year, compared with approximately \$37,000 nationally.†
- The state received \$1,494,322 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for school kitchen equipment upgrades in fiscal year 2014.‡

* The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.

† Ibid.

‡ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "Fiscal Year 2014 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities" (memorandum, April 18, 2014).

Although 53 percent of school districts in California have at least some budget for kitchen equipment upgrades,² U.S. Department of Agriculture grants are critical to helping schools with greater needs. Across the state, 111 schools received funding in fiscal 2014 to purchase kitchen equipment.³ (See Table 1.)

Policymakers have a chance to make a big difference in many school systems by helping them purchase the new and better tools they need to serve healthier foods more efficiently. Congress has provided such support since 2009 in the form of grant funding through annual appropriations, including \$30 million in fiscal 2016, which is distributed to school districts via state agencies.⁴ For fiscal 2017, the president's budget includes \$35 million for the grants.⁵ Now Congress has the opportunity to match that request and make certain that more schools have access to these much-needed resources.

Additionally, the bipartisan School Food Modernization Act (S. 540/H.R. 3316) would maintain schools' access to modern kitchen equipment and infrastructure, and strengthen workforce training through the child nutrition reauthorization legislation.⁶ By co-sponsoring the act, members of Congress can help make upgrading school kitchens and ensuring that students receive the healthy meals they need a national priority.

Table 1

Congress Should Appropriate Funding to Help More Schools

USDA grants by California congressional district, school food authority, amount, and items purchased, FY 2014

Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-1	Anderson Union High School District	West Valley High School	\$5,500.00	Steamer
CA-1	Bangor Union Elementary School District	Bangor Elementary School	\$7,200.00	Steamer
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Bidwell Junior High School	\$15,000.00	Double-stack oven
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Bidwell Junior High School	\$5,000.00	Produce-washing sink
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Emma Wilson Elementary School	\$7,300.00	Produce slicer
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Emma Wilson Elementary School	\$7,500.00	Double-stack oven
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Little Chico Creek Elementary School	\$8,000.00	Food packaging system
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Little Chico Creek Elementary School	\$5,450.00	Produce/meat slicer
CA-1	Chico Unified School District	Neal Dow Elementary School	\$5,450.00	Produce/meat slicer

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-1	Keppel Union Elementary School District	Antelope Elementary School	\$7,000.00	Double-door reach-in refrigerator
CA-1	Shaffer Union Elementary School District	Shaffer Elementary School	\$5,251.00	Countertop steamer
CA-2	Arcata Elementary School District	Sunny Brae Middle School	\$9,440.00	Automatic slicer
CA-2	McKinleyville Union Elementary School District	Dow's Prairie Elementary School	\$9,440.00	Automatic slicer
CA-2	McKinleyville Union Elementary School District	Morris Elementary School	\$9,440.00	Automatic slicer
CA-2	Old Adobe Union School District	La Tercera Elementary School	\$9,000.00	Combo oven range
CA-2	Old Adobe Union School District	La Tercera Elementary School	\$8,000.00	Combo oven range
CA-2	Old Adobe Union School District	Miwok Valley Language Academy Charter School	\$9,000.00	Combo oven range
CA-2	Old Adobe Union School District	Miwok Valley Language Academy Charter School	\$5,600.00	Combo oven range
CA-2	Willits Charter School	Willits Charter School	\$15,000.00	Dishwasher
CA-3	Princeton Joint Unified School District	Princeton Junior-Senior High School	\$8,000.00	Deep freezer
CA-3	Marysville Joint Unified School District	Marysville High School	\$6,166.00	Portable cold food serving counter [†]
CA-3	Marysville Joint Unified School District	Marysville High School	\$7,685.00	Portable hot food serving counter [†]
CA-3	Yuba County Juvenile Hall	Yuba County Juvenile Hall	\$5,603.00	Convection oven
CA-3	Dixon Unified School District	C.A. Jacobs Middle School	\$10,035.00	Gas steamer
CA-3	Lucerne Elementary School District	Lucerne Elementary School	\$7,029.00	Heat sanitizing dishwasher

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-4	Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	Tahoe Truckee High School	\$5,932.00	Walk-in refrigerator
CA-4	Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	Alder Creek Middle School	\$9,855.00	Walk-in freezer
CA-4	Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	Tahoe Truckee High School	\$8,618.00	Dishwasher
CA-4	Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	North Tahoe High School	\$9,855.00	Walk-in freezer
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Golden Sierra Junior-Senior High School	\$5,800.00	Electric food slicer
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Golden Sierra Junior-Senior High School	\$7,300.00	Proofer/food warmer
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Golden Sierra Junior-Senior High School	\$6,880.00	Dishwasher
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Northside Elementary School	\$6,100.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Northside Elementary School	\$6,200.00	Reach-in freezer
CA-4	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	Northside Elementary School	\$7,500.00	Electric range with oven
CA-4	Gold Oak Union Elementary School District	Pleasant Valley Middle School	\$7,790.00	Double-stack oven
CA-4	Sierra Foothill Charter School	Sierra Foothill Charter School	\$5,700.00	Reach-in freezer
CA-5	Middletown Unified School District	Coyote Valley Elementary School	\$6,286.00	Walk-in refrigerator
CA-5	Middletown Unified School District	Coyote Valley Elementary School	\$6,890.00	Walk-in freezer
CA-5	Wright Elementary School District	J.X. Wilson Elementary School	\$20,000.00	Outdoor freezer
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	Bannon Creek Elementary School	\$8,650.00	Refrigerated delivery truck

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	Bannon Creek Elementary School	\$8,500.00	Steamer
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	Jefferson Elementary School	\$8,650.00	Refrigerated truck
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	Jefferson Elementary School	\$8,500.00	Steamer
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	American Lakes Elementary School	\$8,650.00	Refrigerated delivery truck
CA-6	Natomas Unified School District	American Lakes Elementary School	\$8,500.00	Steamer
CA-8	Barstow Unified School District	Barstow Junior High School	\$6,000.00	Serving line
CA-8	Barstow Unified School District	Barstow Junior High School	\$9,000.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-8	Barstow Unified School District	Central High School	\$6,000.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-8	Barstow Unified School District	Central High School	\$9,000.00	Hot serving line
CA-9	Lodi Unified School District	Bear Creek High School	\$20,000.00	Ice pan
CA-9	Lodi Unified School District	Christa McAuliffe Middle School	\$20,000.00	Heated holding cabinet
CA-9	Lodi Unified School District	Ronald E. McNair High School	\$20,000.00	Two mobile food carts
CA-9	Stockton Unified School District	George Washington Elementary School	\$6,995.00	Double-stack convection oven
CA-9	Stockton Unified School District	Tyler Skills Elementary School	\$6,995.00	Double-stack convection oven
CA-10	New Jerusalem Elementary School District	New Jerusalem Elementary School	\$5,000.00	Roast and hold oven [‡]
CA-10	New Jerusalem Elementary School District	New Jerusalem Elementary School	\$7,000.00	Walk-in freezer

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-11	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Concord High School	\$20,000.00	Mobile food trailer
CA-11	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Ygnacio Valley High School	\$20,000.00	Serving line
CA-14	Bayshore Elementary School District	Bayshore Elementary School	\$5,000.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-14	Bayshore Elementary School District	Bayshore Elementary School	\$7,435.00	Retherm oven [®]
CA-14	Bayshore Elementary School District	Garnet J. Robertson Intermediate School	\$5,000.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-14	Bayshore Elementary School District	Garnet J. Robertson Intermediate School	\$7,435.00	Retherm oven
CA-14	Ravenswood City Elementary School District	Belle Haven Elementary School	\$20,000.00	Walk-in refrigerator/freezer
CA-16	Alview-Dairyland Union Elementary School District	Alview Elementary School	\$5,000.00	Counter service area
CA-16	Ballico Cressey Elementary School District	Ballico Elementary School	\$18,938.00	25-gallon tilting gas kettle
CA-16	Chowchilla Elementary School District	Fuller Elementary School	\$5,000.00	Buffet table
CA-16	Chowchilla Elementary School District	Stephens Elementary School	\$5,000.00	Buffet table
CA-16	Chowchilla Elementary School District	Wilson Middle School	\$5,500.00	Buffet table
CA-17	Milpitas Unified School District	Central Kitchen	\$20,000.00	Steam kettle
CA-19	East Side Union High School District	Silver Creek High School	\$7,648.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-19	East Side Union High School District	Silver Creek High School	\$9,835.00	Three-door freezer
CA-21	Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District	Arthur E. Mills Intermediate School	\$5,035.00	Steamer

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-21	Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District	Firebaugh High School	\$5,034.00	Steamer
CA-21	Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District	Firebaugh Middle School	\$8,500.00	Merchandiser chart refrigerator
CA-21	Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District	Hazel M. Bailey Primary School	\$5,034.00	Steamer
CA-21	Kerman Unified School District	Kerman Middle School	\$10,000.00	Retherm cabinet
CA-21	Kerman Unified School District	Kerman Middle School	\$10,000.00	Tilting skillet
CA-21	Fowler Unified School District	Fremont Elementary School	\$6,471.00	Convection oven
CA-21	Fowler Unified School District	Fowler High School	\$7,101.00	Conventional oven
CA-21	Fowler Unified School District	Fowler High School	\$8,116.00	Electric single steamer
CA-21	Fowler Unified School District	Malaga Elementary School	\$12,987.00	Combo walk-in freezer
CA-21	Pioneer Union Elementary School District	Pioneer Elementary School	\$5,500.00	Reach-in refrigerator
CA-21	Pioneer Union Elementary School District	Pioneer Elementary School	\$9,000.00	60-inch electric range burner
CA-22	Kings Canyon Joint Unified School District	Alta Elementary School	\$20,000.00	Walk-in refrigerator/freezer
CA-22	Rio Elementary School District	Rio Vista Middle School	\$16,086.00	40-gallon gas braising pan
CA-23	Belridge Elementary School District	Belridge Elementary School	\$9,346.00	Double-deck convection oven
CA-23	Sierra Sands Unified School District	Murray Middle School	\$17,814.00	Walk-in freezer
CA-23	Southern Kern Unified School District	Rare Earth High School	\$10,484.00	Point-of-sale terminal

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-23	Southern Kern Unified School District	Rosamond Elementary School	\$10,484.00	Point-of-sale terminal
CA-23	Southern Kern Unified School District	Rosamond High School	\$10,484.00	Point-of-sale terminal
CA-23	Southern Kern Unified School District	Tropico Middle School	\$10,484.00	Point-of-sale terminal
CA-23	Southern Kern Unified School District	Westpark Elementary School	\$10,484.00	Point-of-sale terminal
CA-24	Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	Santa Ynez Valley Union High School	\$5,449.00	Sandwich prep table
CA-24	Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	Santa Ynez Valley Union High School	\$6,245.00	Three-door refrigerator
CA-25	Keppel Union Elementary School District	Alpine Elementary School	\$7,000.00	Double-door reach-in refrigerator
CA-25	Life Source International Charter School	Life Source International Charter School	\$10,000.00	Commercial refrigerator/freezer
CA-25	Life Source International Charter School	Life Source International Charter School	\$10,000.00	Warmers
CA-26	Santa Paula Unified School District	Blanchard Elementary School	\$14,271.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Santa Paula Unified School District	Glen City Elementary School	\$14,271.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Santa Paula Unified School District	Grace S. Thille Elementary School	\$14,271.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Santa Paula Unified School District	McKevett Elementary School	\$14,271.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Santa Paula Unified School District	Santa Paula High School	\$13,369.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Ventura Unified School District	De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts	\$19,700.00	Merchandising kiosk
CA-26	Conejo Valley Unified School District	Conejo Valley High School	\$5,215.00	Heated holding cabinet

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-26	Conejo Valley Unified School District	Conejo Valley High School	\$5,300.00	Steam table
CA-26	Conejo Valley Unified School District	Conejo Valley High School	\$9,476.00	Convection oven
CA-26	Somis Union School District	Somis Elementary School	\$8,025.00	Six-burner stove
CA-27	Aveson Charter Schools	Aveson Global Leadership Academy	\$9,705.00	Cafe cart
CA-29	Vaughn Next Century Learning Center	Vaughn International Studies Academy—Annex	\$6,714.00	Double-decker oven
CA-32	Bonita Unified School District	Ramona Middle School	\$6,549.00	Heated serving cabinet
CA-32	Bonita Unified School District	San Dimas High School	\$5,701.00	Convection oven
CA-32	Bonita Unified School District	San Dimas High School	\$7,521.00	Convection oven
CA-32	Bonita Unified School District	Bonita High School	\$5,701.00	Conveyor pizza oven
CA-35	Mountain View Elementary School District	Creek View Elementary School	\$17,875.00	Portable serving line
CA-35	Mountain View Elementary School District	Grace Yokley Middle School	\$12,367.00	Three-compartment stainless steel sink
CA-35	Mountain View Elementary School District	Ranch View Elementary School	\$11,021.00	Stainless steel portable serving line
CA-35	Mountain View Elementary School District	Ranch View Elementary School	\$8,483.00	Four-compartment dishwashing sink
CA-36	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall—Indio	\$11,000.00	Meal cart
CA-36	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall—Indio	\$5,500.00	Reach-in freezer
CA-37	New Heights Charter School	New Heights Charter—Upper Grades Annex	\$7,435.00	Retherm oven

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-38	Little Lake City Elementary School District	Cresson Elementary School	\$6,561.00	Two-door reach-in refrigerator
CA-38	Little Lake City Elementary School District	Lake Center Middle School	\$10,615.00	Pass-through refrigerator
CA-38	Little Lake City Elementary School District	Lakeland Elementary School	\$6,561.00	Two-door reach-in refrigerator
CA-38	Little Lake City Elementary School District	Studebaker Elementary School	\$10,229.00	Three-door reach-in freezer
CA-39	Florence Crittenton Services	Florence Crittenton Group Home, No. 1	\$12,000.00	Yogurt machine
CA-39	Florence Crittenton Services	Florence Crittenton Group Home, No. 4	\$16,000.00	Outdoor freezer
CA-41	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall—Riverside	\$10,000.00	Range
CA-41	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall—Riverside	\$5,000.00	Roast and hold oven
CA-41	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall—Riverside	\$5,000.00	Electric oven
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Central Middle School	\$3,956.85	Mobile heated pan
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Central Middle School	\$9,907.80	Food cart with wings
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Central Middle School	\$5,393.42	Ice cuber
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Highgrove Elementary School	\$5,616.28	Refrigerator
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Highgrove Elementary School	\$3,956.85	Mobile heated pan cabinet
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Longfellow Elementary School	\$5,616.28	Refrigerator
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Longfellow Elementary School	\$3,005.60	Buffet, hot food

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Longfellow Elementary School	\$7,205.79	Freezer
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Madison Elementary School	\$5,616.28	Refrigerator
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Madison Elementary School	\$3,005.60	Buffet, hot food
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Madison Elementary School	\$7,205.79	Freezer
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Riverside Polytechnic High School	\$7,205.79	Freezer
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Riverside Polytechnic High School	\$9,907.80	Food cart with wings
CA-41	Riverside Unified School District	Riverside Polytechnic High School	\$5,393.42	Ice cuber
CA-42	Murrieta Valley Unified School District	Murrieta Mesa High School	\$13,608.00	Tilting skillet
CA-42	Murrieta Valley Unified School District	Vista Murrieta High School	\$13,608.00	Tilting skillet
CA-42	Riverside County Probation Department	Riverside County Juvenile Hall - Southwest	\$10,000.00	Roll-in refrigerator
CA-48	Huntington Beach Union High School District	Fountain Valley High School	\$20,000.00	Combi oven
CA-50	Phoenix House Academy of San Diego	Phoenix House Academy of San Diego	\$7,000.00	Triple sink, counter, faucet
CA-51	Heber Elementary School District	Dogwood Elementary School	\$20,000.00	Kettle
CA-51	Heber Elementary School District	Heber School	\$20,000.00	Oven
CA-53	Lemon Grove School District	Lemon Grove Academy for the Sciences and Humanities	\$10,560.00	Skillet
CA-53	Lemon Grove School District	Lemon Grove Academy for the Sciences and Humanities	\$5,672.00	Freezer

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
CA-53	Lemon Grove School District	San Altos Elementary School	\$10,170.00	Convection oven
CA-53	Lemon Grove School District	San Altos Elementary School	\$5,672.00	Freezer

Notes: Total dollars allocated from the USDA to states and from states to schools may be different because of variation between projected and final equipment costs.

* Cold-food serving line counters hold foods at safe, cool temperatures.

† Hot-food serving line counters hold foods at safe, warm temperatures.

‡ Roast-and-hold ovens allow food to be cooked to safe temperatures and stored for hours without compromising quality.

§ Retherm ovens reheat food that has been previously cooked to a safe temperature and then safely cooled to a frozen or refrigerated state. They allow food preparation to occur off site, and then items can be safely reheated for serving.

Source: California Department of Education

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Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "National School Lunch Program: Participation and Lunches Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)"; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "School Breakfast Program: Participation and Meals Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)," <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables>.
- 2 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.
- 3 California Department of Education, pers. comm., April 1, 2016.
- 4 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2016 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants," last modified Feb. 1, 2016, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/2016-nslp-equipment-assistance-grants>.
- 5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2017 Explanatory Notes," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.obpa.usda.gov/32fns2017notes.pdf>.
- 6 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Give Schools the Tools to Prepare Healthy, Delicious Meals" (Feb. 20, 2015), <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/02/give-schools-the-tools-to-prepare-healthy-delicious-meals>.

For further information, please visit:

pewtrusts.org/kitchen-equipment

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