

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant FAQs

Notification

Q: Will I receive an email if I get awarded?

A: Yes. Award communication will be sent via both email and U.S. mail.

Q: How do I know if my school received an award?

A: Award Recipients are posted on the [Squaremeals.org](https://squaremeals.org) website.

Q: My school is on the recipient list, but I didn't receive an award letter.

A: Send an email to NSLPEquipmentgrants@texasagriculture.gov to have the letter sent to the correct address or correct personnel.

Purchasing

Q: Do I have to buy all this equipment immediately?

A: No. You should be prepared to have equipment installed and all funds spent by September 30, 2028. You must ensure that the correct procurement processes are followed, as dictated by the price of the equipment.

Q: I purchased the awarded equipment before I received the award letter. Can I still be reimbursed?

A: No. Items purchased prior to the TDA award date are not eligible for reimbursement. Purchases before this date will not be reimbursed.

Q: I am buying equipment on sale and can buy 2 units for the price of 1. Will you reimburse up to the award amount?

A: No. Awards are given per unit. If you buy 2, only the 1 awarded unit is eligible for reimbursement.

Q: I'm buying a double-stack oven. Does this count as 1 oven or 2 ovens?

A: A double-stack oven can be counted as both 1 and 2 ovens. If you were awarded 2 ovens and have the space for 2 double-stacked ovens, then you can count that as 2. If you only have the space for one double-stack oven and were awarded money for 2 ovens, you can count that as 2.



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This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Purchasing Contd.

Q: If I'm buying a combination of Combi and Convection oven, does this count as a convection oven?

A: Yes. When buying a convection oven, as long as the equipment works as a convection oven, it is ok if it also does other things, such as a Combi oven or range.

Q: What if my school needs a different piece of equipment? Can I switch out the awarded equipment?

A: No. Switching equipment is not allowed.

Q: Can I install the awarded equipment at a different site from what is listed?

A: No. The award is site-specific. Switching sites is not allowed.

Q: Are installation costs covered by this grant?

A: It depends. Installation charges will not be covered if there are alterations to the building, exterior structures, and outside extensions to existing walls, roofs (ceiling), and flooring (tilting). According to USDA guidance [2 CFR 200.439](#), this is considered construction, which is an unallowable cost. Installation costs that are not making material improvements to the land, building, or construction of a new structure are allowable.

Q: What are the purchasing guidelines for this award?

A: You must follow all federal procurement rules found in [Title 2 CFR Part 200](#) and all applicable State and local rules.

Q: I received an email from an equipment vendor. Is this a TDA vendor?

A: No. Awards are public information, and vendors have access to this information. Your contact information was not publicized, and we do not share it with any vendor.

Q: Is there a particular vendor I must use?

A: No. Awardees may choose their vendor. Awardees must follow Federal, State, and local procurement rules. Though not required, TDA encourages SFAs awarded grants to purchase equipment made domestically.

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Purchasing Contd.

Q: My award was over \$10,000. Do I need to submit a Capital Expenditure Request?

A: No. Capital expenditure approval is not required for the equipment and the amount awarded under the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant. The only exception to that rule is when the equipment's actual cost exceeds the awarded amount by \$10,000 or more.

For example, A CE was awarded \$50,000 for a serving line that costs \$60,000. The CE will need to submit a capital expenditure request for the \$10,000 in excess of the awarded \$50,000.

Q: My award was not enough to cover the final cost of the equipment. Will the additional cost be covered?

A: No. Recipients are welcome to cover the excess cost from alternative funding sources.

Q: Our auditors will need to know the pass-through entity number. Where can I find it?

A: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA), now known as Assistance Listing Number (ALN) is 10.579.

The source for each SFA's award can be found on their award letter and on the list of awardees found on squaremeals.org. The Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) for the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant is 266TX355N8103.

Unutilized Funds

Q: What happens if I don't use the entire award amount?

A: The remaining funds will be reallocated to eligible CEs based on the scoring criteria.

Q: Can I buy another piece of equipment if I have funds left over?

A: No. Equipment not specifically approved and awarded is not eligible for reimbursement under this grant.

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Unutilized Funds Contd.

Q: I received an award, but my school no longer needs the equipment. What do I do?

A: Notify TDA by sending an email to NSLPEquipmentgrants@texasagriculture.gov. The award amount will be reallocated to eligible CEs based on the scoring criteria.

Q: What are the deadlines that we should be aware of if we receive the award?

A: There are two deadlines to keep track of. The first is January 5, 2028. This is the last day to obligate funds. Any unobligated funds after this date will be returned to TDA. The second date is September 30th, 2028. This is the last date to submit a reimbursement request. All equipment must be purchased, delivered, and installed by this date to qualify for reimbursement. Any equipment installed after this date will not be eligible for reimbursement.

