

COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE WORK PLAN: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUNDING

ON-GOING NOTES

12-7-2011 TF MEETING DISCUSSION

Template Sections

- We are in the process of developing a grant template with common language that schools might find useful when applying for a facility grant. For example for equipment a school might need, the template includes justification for why you might need different pieces of common and expensive equipment, with maps of child obesity rates and text about that.
- The template also includes customizable sections in a word document so they can be adjusted by the users, with basic language so that schools don't have to spend so much time grant writing.
- The template also has a series of equipment resources that schools can use to figure out what types of equipment is available, what costs will be, etc.

Grant opportunities

- The template includes a list of some of the grants that are available, when the deadlines are, where to apply, what they can support.
- **Question:** How does this relate to TCHF's culinary boot camp?
 - **Response:** They have their own grant process. In our grant template we're looking at lot of different grant application forms, and providing information for some of the sections.

Discussion: Dissemination to school districts

- Should we conduct webinars on the template?
- Dissemination of the template to the grants people for school districts might be a good plan – you can find them on the websites for larger school districts.
- For smaller districts, perhaps attending their rural philanthropy days. Do schools participate? If not, they could. Rural philanthropy days include training for small organizations on how to apply for grants. Other grants discussed there include USDA aid for disadvantaged farmers, rural and minority owned.
- Disseminate it to food services directors, and they can forward it on to the grants departments.
 - The food service director's conference is too far off.
- This will be a great resource to get on various websites, like the CFSAC and agency sites.
- Suggestion to develop a handout that could be presented at upcoming events.
- It will be in the resources for FTS at Lyn's January Webinar.
- If it's going to be on a number of different sites, it should be there as a link to one place where the original resides, so it can be updated in one place. On the Information Hub!

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09-15-2011 TF MEETING DISCUSSION

Facilities Grants

Overview

- Information on how to find and apply for grants for facilities.
- CSI is working on this internally, and reaching out to school districts and other partners who have been involved in putting together grant proposals for facilities schools need. Goal: Facilitate and streamline the process for facilities, particularly in small schools, to identify what things are needed, capacity of different types of equipment, value of equipment, and costs associated. This will simplify the process of schools pursuing funding for their equipment needs. The information will include standard, boilerplate language on why each piece of equipment is needed.
- Agreement this work is ideally for small districts – larger districts have the capacity to collect this type of information themselves.
- Materials will be available on the Information Hub for anyone to access.

Discussion

- For many schools, facilities are not an issue. The issue is transitioning from processed food to preparing their own food. Older schools have equipment.
- For other schools, the facilities are the biggest obstacle. Newer schools may not have any kitchen facilities. Older schools may not have electronic systems needed to power large kitchen equipment.
- A hood is one of the most expensive items, though some other equipment can be expensive.
- Suggestion of policy committee crafting recommendations for what new school facilities include to meet regulatory requirements.