

# Federal Grant Application Request

## Department of Education

### School Meal Programs

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**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for up to \$150,000 for a Professional Standards and Training grant for School Meal Programs.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Department of Education is requesting authority to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Professional Standards Training Grant is being offered to assist school nutrition staff meet the professional standards established under the federal 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Minimum national level standards were set for all school nutrition employees who manage and operate School Meal Programs. Grants are being offered to State agencies for training programs for these employees. The deadline for submitting the grant application is June 8, 2015. There are no matching requirements for this grant.

A March 2015, USDA rule included minimum hiring standards for state and local level nutrition program directors as well as established continuing education requirements for all school nutrition related employees. The grant funds, if awarded, would be used to support both online and in-person training. Established training tools through the National Food Service Management Institute and other entities would be used where possible to meet the continuing education requirements.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.