

Procurement Practices in School Meals: Making Real Change Work for Healthier Meals

Preamble

Our core areas of work are driven by 2 factors:

- 1. First, the information we gather by analyzing actual purchase data from our member districts.
- The expertise and experiences of our members and professional staff.
 These two factors drives our decision making on how we can best contribute meaningfully

to the field.

Areas of Focus

- 1. Discover core issues in school food procurement
- 2. Develop a plan of action based on those core issues, including training materials and regulation changes.
- 3. Engage farmer and produce allied organizations to better understand the needs of minority owned, small farmers.
- 4. Engage large urban districts in farmer/producer webinars, introducing farmers to the procurement timelines and requirements.
- 5. Develop a group of contracted procurement specialist and conduct TeamUp trainings around the country.
- 6. Collaborate with outside expertise to identify best practices for school procurement, defining new business plan ideas, including piloting these ideas.
- 7. Conduct presentations to national organizations involved in the business of school procurement.

Phase One

Investigative Phase

- 1. Create an Advisory/Work Group
- 2. Review procurement rules at federal, state, local levels.
- Review procurement trainings available and identify gaps.

Phase Two

Development Phase

- 1. Developing a national bid template.
- 2. Develop trainings needed.
- 3. Conduct TeamUp trainings around country.
- 4. Webinars for local producers.

Phase Three

Piloting Change

- 1. Conducting Pilots
- finding committed districts, state agencies, and regional offices to try using all information gathered by the work in cooperative agreement to try new ways of procuring school food.
- 2. Preparing a proposal for a new school food procurement business plan to USDA/Congress

Your Partnership

We Need You

- 1. Identify the 6 top pain points in school procurement from your viewpoint.
- 2. Identify action steps needed to reduce these issues.
- 3. Who are the SFAs that do the best job in procurement.
- 4. Give us your ideas for topics for training.

Questions?