

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 30, 2016

Ms. Sonia Pope
Charter School Leader
Holyoke Community Charter School
2200 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Charter School Leader Pope,

Congratulations! I am pleased to notify you that Holyoke Community Charter School has been awarded a School Nutrition Equipment Assistance for High Need Districts Grant of \$7,260.

I want to thank you for your commitment to increasing schools' capacity to serve healthier meals at Holyoke Community Charter School so that all students will receive the nutrition they need to do well in school. Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to healthier meals and improve the overall health of every child in the Commonwealth.

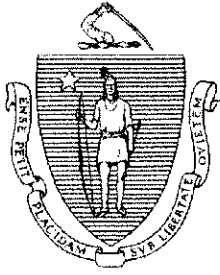
You will be receiving further instructions from the Executive Office of Education on next steps, and please feel free to contact Kerry Callahan, (kerrvc@doe.mass.edu) or 781-338-6462 if you have any questions.

Governor Charles D. Baker

Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in black ink.



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

November 30, 2016

Sonia Pope
Charter School Leader
Holyoke Community Charter School
2200 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

RE: School Nutrition Equipment Assistance for High Needs Districts Grant Award Notification

Dear Charter School Leader Pope:

Thank you for submitting a proposal for the School Nutrition Equipment Assistance for High Needs Districts Grant. This grant is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE). Massachusetts was allocated \$427,282 in funding to disperse throughout the Commonwealth. Approximately \$1,217,488 in requests were received.

Funding priority was given to School Foodservice Authorities (SFA) with schools that had at least 50 percent of the students eligible for free or reduced priced meals at sites requesting grants. Funding awards were based on evaluation and selection scoring of the grant application that prioritized the school's percentage of enrolled students eligible for free and reduced priced lunch; school enrollment; if the school received grant funding for an equipment purchase in grant in FY2010 (ARRA), FY2011 (USDA), or FY14, FY15, FY16 (USDA); if the school district is in good standing with the Child Nutrition Program; a detailed budget that is complete and reasonable; documentation quotes for each piece of equipment requested from state approved vendor; and to the utilization of the five focus areas that encompassed how the purchase will: sustain program expansion, improve the quality of school meals, help the school meet the USDA meal pattern, improve food safety and improve energy efficiency.

As stated in the USDA policy memo SP 26 - 2015 the definition of allowable equipment as "tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000." Items not explicitly approved and items that fall short of USDA's definition of allowable equipment, whether in purpose or cost were not funded via this grant.

Due to the nature of these funds, **all monies must be expended by June 30, 2017**. Grant monies will be dispersed according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidelines as described in the [Grants for Schools: Getting Them and Using Them, A](#)

Procedural Manual, which is located on the Grants Information page of the ESE website.

These new purchases must be added to the LEA's equipment inventory. All equipment purchased with these grants funds must be tagged with a label identifying it as being purchased with FY17 USDA School Nutrition Assistance Grant Funds. If the equipment purchased for the school is ever sold, the proceeds must be returned to the School's Nutrition Program Account.

Awardees (SFAs) are required to report the following data to the State Agency for inclusion in the quarterly progress activity reports to USDA including: progress made in expending funds; types of equipment purchased; accomplishments and challenges in expenditure activities; impact on the school food service operation of purchased equipment; reason(s) for any un-liquidated funds; and potential return of equipment.

Below is the list of school sites within the district that have been awarded grant funding. Please note that not all requests could be funded due to the overwhelming number of applications submitted. **Programs must use the funding awarded to purchase the specific piece(s) of equipment listed below. The awarded pieces of equipment may only be installed, and utilized at the specific site that received the grant monies. If the district does not utilize the entire award amount, the district must contact Peter McLaughlin, Section Head for Food and Nutrition Programs Financial Management Section at 781-338-6454 for instructions on how to return the unused portion of the grant award to ESE.**

| Site Name | Equipment Awarded | FC722 Funding Allocated |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Holyoke Community Charter School | Double oven(s) | \$7,260 |
| | District Total | \$7,260 |

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Kerry Callahan at 781-338-6462.

Sincerely,



Robert Leshin
Director
Office for Food and Nutrition Programs

c: Tom Paquin, School Nutrition Director