



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
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Montana's School Wellness Policy In Action Mini-Grant Program

Dear School Personnel,

January 22, 2010

The Montana Team Nutrition (MTN) Program announces a competitive grant opportunity in support of school wellness policy implementation efforts. With funds from the 2009 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant, the Montana Office of Public Instruction will award ten \$5,000 mini grants to school districts that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs throughout Montana.

This *School Wellness Policy In Action Mini Grant* is being offered in response to the need for increased support for school wellness policy implementation at the local level. The purpose of the grant is to support the creation of sustainable healthy school nutrition environments. Grant goals are a) to partially fund a school wellness coordinator to direct wellness activities; or b) to carry out action steps of school wellness policy implementation plans.

A total of \$50,000 for mini-grants (up to **\$5,000 each**) will be awarded to school districts through a competitive process. See the attached grant application for details.

Please share this letter and mini grant application with administrators or school personnel. The application must be received by March 5, 2010. Grants will be awarded as early as March 19, 2010, and the funds must be spent by August 31, 2011. Training and technical assistance will be offered to grant recipients; and a mid-term progress and a final program report are required of all grant recipients.

Award applications will be rated according to the following criteria: (100 point scale)

- The school district must have an active School Wellness or Health Advisory Committee comprised of a variety of stakeholders. (15 points)
- The proposed project plan describes how the goal(s) of the grant will be carried out in detail. (Attachment B - Summary of Components). (45 points)
- The plan promotes a collaborative approach between students, school staff, and the community. (5 pts.)
- The sustainability of the project outcome(s), beyond the grant period, is addressed. (10 points)
- The proposed budget is appropriate and realistic. (Attachments C and D) (20 points)
- The application packet must be submitted by the deadline. **Deadline is March 5, 2010.** (5 points)
- Bonus points – 5 points will be given if the majority of the schools within the district are enrolled as Team Nutrition Schools.

If you have questions, please contact Katie Bark by telephone at (406) 994-5641 or by e-mail kbark@mt.gov. Technical assistance via conference calls will be offered in February; additional details are included in the application packet.

An electronic version of this application is available at the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs Web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/grants.html>.