



# ***Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals***



Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals recognizes nutritious school meal menu options that reflect the different cultures of students.

School Food Authorities (SFA) are eligible to apply for this Recognition Award if they participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) in the contiguous United States, Hawaii, Alaska, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, or the United States Virgin Islands.

## **Award Criteria**

Within the past 12 months, at least one school within the SFA has collaborated with students and/or the community to offer nutritious school meal menu options (at least one entrée and two different sides) that reflect the cultures of students at the school, while meeting weekly meal pattern requirements. The one entree and two side dishes can be from different cultures that make up the student demographic population and can be served on different days.

- As part of the collaboration, the school provides culturally appropriate education for all students and their families on the new menu offerings and their cultural significance.

Learn more about the Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards at:  
[www.healthymealsincentives.org](http://www.healthymealsincentives.org)

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## Required Documentation

Provide name and grade levels for the school(s) used to qualify for the award.

Describe the collaboration with students and/or the community including:

- A brief overview of the culture represented in the new menu items;
- Who was involved in the collaboration and how the school(s) collaborated with students and/or community members from that culture to develop the school meal menus;
- Explain the culturally appropriate education provided to students and their families (e.g., taste-test event, social media campaign, newsletter);
- The impact it had on students (e.g., based on student participation rate increases, student taste testing results or student survey results); and
- Include how this information was made available in languages other than English, if needed.

Submit school meal menus (for lunch and/or breakfast) showing all three food items were served at least three different times during the 12 months prior to award application submission.

- Identify the culturally-inspired menu items, including at least one entrée and two sides for all three menu additions; For each culturally-inspired menu item, submit either standardized recipes or product documentation.

\*A standardized recipe is a recipe that has been tried, adapted, and retried several times for use and has been found to produce the same good results and yield every time when the exact procedures are used with the same type of equipment and the same quantity of ingredients.

Applicants may submit optional photographs including two or three clear, high-resolution photos of the menu items and any relevant activities with release forms providing USDA with royalty free unlimited rights to the use and printing of the photographs and parental permission forms, when applicable. A high-resolution image is one that's at least 300 DPI, or "dots per inch."

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