



## **School Foodservice Directors Outline Equipment Wishes**

### **82 percent of School Foodservice Operators Applied for Equipment Assistance**

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Topping the wish lists of school foodservice directors is equipment that can help them enhance the functions of cooking, freezing and serving meals, according to a study conducted by research and consulting firm Y-Pulse, LLC. The data also showed that 82 percent of the school foodservice operators participating in the study applied for a share of the government's \$100 million appropriation package for equipment assistance, which was signed into law earlier this year.

Other items on school foodservice directors' wish lists include vehicles to transport food, safety-related items and vending machines. Those foodservice directors with cooking equipment on their wish lists most often cited a desire for steamers and combi ovens, while walk-in coolers and freezers were the top vote getters among those looking at new freezing systems. Participants seeking funds for serving equipment most often mentioned new serving lines, followed by new milk coolers.

In collecting this data, Y-Pulse polled school foodservice professionals representing a range of school districts from around the country. These districts are part of the National School Lunch Program.

"The results of this survey underscore the fact that there is a real need and interest in new equipment for foodservice operations and, at the same time, that school foodservice directors want equipment that is efficient, more versatile and durable for the long-term," noted Sharon Olson, partner with Y-Pulse.

Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the equipment grants were designed to ultimately improve the quality of school foodservice meals, particularly in schools with at least half of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The allocations cover the acquisition of new equipment, renovation of existing equipment or replacement of equipment through state agencies.