

MARCH 2010

School

Solutions & Strategies
for K-12 Foodservice

Nutrition

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

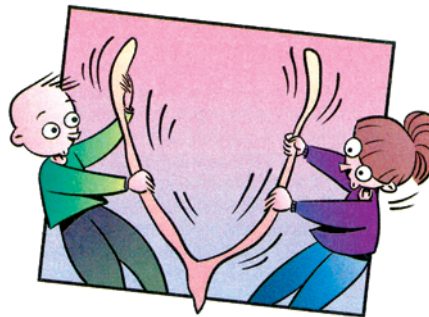
Operators Make a Wish

School nutrition operations that did not receive grant money to purchase new foodservice equipment from funds available through the 2009 economic stimulus package have another chance! In January, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that an additional \$25 million for equipment assistance had been made available to school food authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program and that did not receive a stimulus grant. The allocations cover the acquisition of new equipment, renovation of existing equipment or replacement of equipment.

Last year, Y-Pulse, LLC, polled school nutrition professionals from large school districts around the country via online and e-mail surveys to gauge the specific equipment items they hoped to add to their operations. According to the survey, 82% of respondents applied for an equipment grant through the 2009 federal stimulus funding program. A majority indicated they would use funding to

purchase equipment that would enhance cooking (particularly steamers and combi ovens), freezing (walk-in units) and serving (serving lines and milk coolers). Others sought safety-related items, vending machines and vehicles to transport food to sites around the district.

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