



All applications will be evaluated using the following criteria. The total amount of points an applicant can receive is 135 points.

<b>Project Description (50 points)</b>
<b>Goals, activities, and timeline (15 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the project description clear? (0-5 points)</li><li>• Do the activities support the project's goals? (0-5 points)</li><li>• Is the timeline reasonable? (0-5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 1 (0-5 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the applicant clearly describe how this project will expand the school food marketplace to include more food providers local to Maine and enhance the capacity for food system partners to supply items to Maine SFAs? (0-5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 2 (0-5 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is it clear how this project will result in an increase in the volume and type of items used in school meal programs? (0-5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 3 (10 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the applicant explain how this project will increase the capacity of school nutrition teams to use more Maine-based items? (0–5 points)</li><li>• Does the applicant clearly describe how this project will make it easier for SFAs to use Maine-sourced items in their school meal programs by addressing barriers that they face? (0–5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 4 (0-5 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does this project include partnerships that will help support its goals? (0-5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 5 (0-5 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the project demonstrate the potential for long-term program sustainability after the funding period ends? (0–5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Objective 6 (0-5 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the applicant describe how the project could be scaled and replicated for other SFAs in the region? (0–5 points)</li></ul>
<b>Community Needs (35 points)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and challenges of this community? (0-5 points)</li><li>• Does the applicant identify a barrier(s) that this project is responding to? (0-5 points)</li><li>• Does the applicant engage and collaborate with those most affected by the barrier(s) it aims to address? (0-10 points)</li><li>• Is the project responsive to the unique needs of the community it proposes to serve? (0-10 points)</li></ul>



- Does the applicant value student voice and will the project actively engage students as collaborators and decision makers? (0-5 points)

#### **Project Team (15 points)**

- Is the Project Coordinator job description clear and relevant to this project? (0-5 points)
- Does the applicant have a plan for partnerships that will support this project? (0-5 points)
- Is it clear how these partnerships will add value to the project and does the application include a partner Letter of Support from each listed partner? (0-5 points)

#### **Project Evaluation (10 points)**

- Does the applicant outline a clear plan for project evaluation? (0-5 points)
- Does their evaluation plan align with their goals and activities? (0-5 points)

#### **Budget (15 points)**

- Do the budget and budget narrative align? (0-5 points)
- Does the budget narrative provide sufficient explanation for how costs were derived and include equipment quotes if applicable? (0-5 points)
- Is it clear how the expenses listed will support the project goals and activities? (0-5 points)

#### **Bonus Points: Historically Underfunded and/or Underserved Communities (10 points)**

- Does the Lead Partner represent a historically underfunded and/or underserved community? (Yes/No, 5 points/0 points)
- Do any Partner Organizations represent historically underfunded and/or underserved communities? (Yes/No, 5 points/0 points)