

Targeted Capital Fund for kitchens and dining rooms

1. The Government is currently engaged, in partnership with schools, local authorities, caterers and parents, in an ambitious six-year programme to bring about a transformation in the quality and provision of school food and increase school lunch take-up.
2. From 2008-09 until 2010-11, almost £22 billion of capital is available to improve school buildings, including their kitchen and dining facilities. Major capital programmes are addressing the need directly:
 - a. over 1000 secondary schools are prioritised in the Building Schools for the Future and academies programmes by 2010;
 - b. the Primary Capital Programme from 2009-10 gives every authority enough funding to renew at least one of its primary schools each year, with the aim of renewing more than 50% over fifteen years;
 - c. schools and authorities continue to get substantial devolved funding for their local priorities.
3. DCSF Ministers have now decided that, in addition to this funding, £100m of the unspent Targeted Capital Fund for School Kitchens should be offered to all authorities who submit plans to increase school lunch take-up by building or refurbishing school kitchens or improving dining areas and facilities.
4. It will be for authorities and their schools to decide the detail of the plans they submit [see paragraph 8]. However, any proposals should be presented against one or more of the following goals:
 - a. Improving the quality of the food
 - b. Increasing the seating capacity of dining areas
 - c. Improving the dining environment
 - d. Decreasing queuing time
5. These four goals will allow authorities the flexibility to bid for a variety of approaches – eg. new dining room furniture, cashless systems, new or refurbished kitchens – but will ensure that authority plans focus on the factors that contribute to an increase in school lunch take-up.
6. DCSF expects that any proposals for the Targeted Capital Fund for Kitchens and Dining Rooms will complement authority plans for Building Schools for the Future or Primary Capital Programme projects or any plans funded from the devolved capital that is allocated to local authorities and schools.

Funding offer and eligibility

7. Grant will be available in 2009-10 and 2010-11. This funding will be available on a matched basis, with the authority expected to provide 50%

matched funding. Should the total amount bid for by authorities exceed the £100m available, DCSF will give priority to plans that will have the greatest impact on future school lunch take-up. It is a condition of this grant that the authority should consult and agree any plans with its Schools Forum. We would also encourage authorities to have a view to developing plans that reflect the drive to make schools sustainable, adopting resource efficient equipment wherever possible.

Application process

8. In order to assess likely interest for this grant, we request that authorities make Expressions of Interest by Christmas 2008. These do not need to be final plans but should indicate the amount of funding that the authority is likely to require and a brief summary of how this money might be spent. Authorities should then make their formal bids by February 2009 using the standard template on the link below. DCSF aims to announce successful bids by Easter 2009.

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/capital_fund_for_kitchens&dining_rooms_standard_template.pdf

9. Expressions of Interest and final plans should be e-mailed or sent by letter to susan.holley@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk, or Susan Holley, School Food & Healthy Schools Team, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. Enquiries about this guidance and applications can be made to Susan Holley on 020 7925 5825 or to susan.holley@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk.