Question and Answer Document for RFP0379 (RSFI 2025 – Round 3)	
Question	Answer
Is my organization eligible to apply?	Per section 4.3 of the RFP document that described this grant offering, eligible applicants include: • Registered not-for-profit organizations (e.g., tax-exempt under section 501c(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code); • Local Municipalities • School Districts • Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) Your organization will also need to be registered and pre-qualified as a vendor with the New York Statewide Financial System. If your organization meets these criteria, then it would be an eligible applicant. **Please note the project requirements from section 4.2 which will determine whether an application itself will pass initial eligibility review:** Projects must include: -Defined steps on how the project will increase the use of New York State farm products - Multi-school district uses and benefits. For purposes of this grant, a district is being defined as a school or schools that are administered by the same local board of education. - Workforce/training element and/or community use elements
Our team is developing a project concept, but due to coordination and logistical timelines, we may not be ready to submit for Round 3. Will there be a Round 4 of the program?	Yes, there will be two more rounds (4 and 5) of grants offered through the Regional School Food Infrastructure Program. It is important to note, however, that if the region you are planning your project in receives an award in the current round, that region will no longer be an eligible target for project proposals in subsequent rounds.

How do we know what section (region) our school is in?	The Regions of New York State are described in section 3.2 of the RPF document: The following regions will be eligible for this grant: **Finger Lakes:** Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates **Southern Tier:** Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins **Mohawk Valley:** Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie **Capital Region:** Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington **Mid-Hudson:** Duchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester **New York City:** Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, Queens Awarded in previous rounds and excluded from being awarded in Round 3: **Western New York:** Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara **North Country:** Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence **Long Island:** Nassau, Suffolk **Central New York**: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego
Are LLCs with a fiscal sponsor eligible to apply?	Per the RFP document, eligible applicants (Section 4.3) must be one of the following: - Registered not-for-profit organizations - Local Municipalities - School Districts - Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) Sub-contracts for the administration of a proposed project are not eligible.
When is the application deadline for Round 3 of the Regional School Food Infrastructure Project (RFP0379)?	Applications for this round of RSFI are due to be submitted in the State Financial System no later than **3:00pm, January 20, 2026**.

What are the specs and plan holder list for the project mentioned above (RFP0379)?	Per the RFP0379: 4.2. Project Scope The objective of the Regional School Food Infrastructure Grant is to provide the opportunity to build long-term food system resiliency within New York State's School Food System. Projects should be regionally focused on improving meal preparation for K-12 school children, reducing food insecurity, increasing market opportunities for New York State producers, and strengthening the resiliency of our state's food system. 4.3. Eligible Applicants • Registered not-for-profit organizations (e.g., tax-exempt under section 501c(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code); • Local Municipalities • School Districts • Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)
Can you clarify eligible activities and costs for the workforce training element of the NY State Regional School Food Infrastructure Grant Program? For example, would a workforce development program (for example, a pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship) for school food workers employed in a meal program that prioritizes local procurement and scratch cooking be an acceptable component of a project to provide competency-based training around culinary skills, food processing, procurement, logistics, etc.	There are no specific or costs activities in terms of workforce training element, the workforce training must be related to school food or agriculture. An apprenticeship program would be acceptable.
Can an organization based outside of New York be an eligible contractor on an application?	Organizations applying for and administrating the grant must be located in NYS, contractors paid by grant funds do not have to be located in NYS.

Would we be able to apply for the funding and subgrant it to multiple school districts for equipment?	The RFP is only for capital projects and not to be sub-granted. Per RFP0379 4.1. Eligible Projects: Only capital projects necessary for construction, renovation, alteration, rehabilitation, improvements, installation, acquisition, repair or replacement of buildings, equipment, or permanent facilities for the development of facilities to support the preparation and distribution of New York-focused meals for regional school infrastructure, such as aggregation, storage hubs and/or commissary-type kitchens. For purposes of this program, a project may be a portion of a larger overall capital project. Grantees can only apply for the full amount of $5,000,000 per proposal.
Our district is in a previously awarded Region - are we ineligible for this Round?	For the RSFI 2025, Round 3 (RFP0379), the following, previously awarded regions are not eligible to be the target of proposed projects: **Western New York:** Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara **North Country:** Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence **Long Island:** Nassau, Suffolk **Central New York**: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego
What defines the geography for this grant? • Is it defined by where the grant applicant is located? • Is it defined by where the business(es) are located, which may be in a different county for a nonprofit that works across the state? • Is it defined by the schools that receive the food resulting from the grant work?	In reference to geography, the region being applied for will be defined based on the location of the facility's physical location that grant funds will support. As far as overall geography and defining the regional focus highlighted in the RFP, we will be looking at both the project location and the location of schools participating.

For RFP 379, if the lead applicant is a local municipality, should they fill out the Vending and Backhauling agreement and leave school code as not applicable?	Please put N/A or list all of the school codes for all participating districts. It will depend on who is responsible for running the facility. OGS will work awarded applicants on agreement.
Can my school district apply for this grant?	While your school district may be considered an eligible applicant entity, the project being proposed in the application needs to target at least two school districts that will benefit from this grant funding for the application itself to pass initial eligibility review. More school districts being served by the project makes for a stronger application and justification for the use of the requested funding.
The RFP states that grant funds cannot be used towards a lease or rent - however, if the applicant is leasing or renting a facility for their operations, can the funds be used to improve the facility they are leasing, where they are paying the lease on their own dime, and the lease extends for the 5 year project period and is structured in a way that allows the tenant to do their own improvements to the facility?	Yes, while these grant funds may not be used to rent or lease property, they can be used to improve a facility being leased or rented. The strength of an application targeting a facility for improvement under this arrangement would be dependent on demonstrating the anticipated longevity of the benefits of the project beyond the 5-year contract term. So, if the lease for the improved facility ends at the end of the contract, that may not present a strong case for the benefits of the project outlasting the contract term. Presenting a plan for how the project will continue to benefit schools after the funding has been used is an important component of a strong application.