SCALES
Supporting Community Agriculture & Local Education Systems

Project SCALES Review Criteria
Total Possible = 100 points

Need (10 points)
▪ Does the application use reliable and valid sources of data (i.e., American Community Survey) to describe the community context?
▪ Does the application clearly identify the need in the community?
▪ Does the application clearly describe supply chain challenges faced by the SFA?

Equity (5 points)
▪ Does the application show potential for meaningful impact on equity by supporting underserved communities' access to healthy school foods?
▪ Has the Getting to Equity framework been incorporated into the application?
▪ Does the application propose to contract or partner with businesses with economically or socially disadvantaged owners?
▪ Will results be relevant to underrepresented and disadvantaged farmers/growers?
▪ Will results be relevant to SFAs that serve disadvantaged students?

Innovation and Significance (30 points)
Innovation (15 points)
▪ Does the project innovatively address a challenge in school food systems?
▪ Does the application seek to shift current paradigms through novel concepts, approaches, or interventions?
Significance (15 points)
▪ What is the scale of the potential impact on school food systems and markets?
▪ Will the project contribute towards improving the nutritional profile of school foods?
▪ Does the project have the potential to improve the foods marketed to students?
▪ Does the project increase the availability of and access to local foods in schools?
▪ Does the project have potential to inform broader knowledge about innovative solutions to local procurement that may work in other US communities?
▪ Could the project have transformative impacts to inform best-practice guidelines?

Goals, Activities, and Outcomes (20 points)
▪ Is the project plan as specified in the "Description of Project" clear?
▪ Is the overall plan for activities well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the goals?
▪ Is the project SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)?
▪ Does the application clearly describe the activities to occur during the project period, as well as what, how, and by whom each activity will occur?
▪ Does the application outline goals and objectives?
▪ Will the project use one or more key performance indicators as described in the RFA?
▪ Is it likely that the project will produce measurable outcomes within two years?

Capacity and Feasibility (20 points)
Capacity (10 points)
- Does the application demonstrate an understanding of challenges facing SFAs in meeting meal pattern standards?   - Does the application demonstrate an organizational commitment to child health broadly, and to nutrition specifically?   - Does the application confirm that the programmatic point of contact will be able to engage fully in the activities of the professional learning community?   - Is the programmatic point of contact positioned to be successful (having institutional support, relationships, experience, and a willingness to learn, and to share what they learn with others)?   - Does the application demonstrate the SFA's capacity and readiness for change?
Feasibility (10 points)
- Does the application indicate the willingness to collaborate with the Project SCALES team on process and outcome evaluation activities?   - If the project builds on existing work, what evidence exists for feasibility?   - If the work is in earlier stages of development, what is the likelihood of feasibility and how will any risky aspects be managed?   - Are potential problems and alternative strategies presented?
Partnerships (10 points)
- Does the project involve a partner organization in a meaningful way?   - Does the project have the potential to benefit communities through support from the food industry?
Sustainability (5 points)
- Are the activities to be completed during the project period likely to be sustainable beyond the end of the subaward period without additional funding?   - Does the SFA have a plan for sustaining local procurement after the grant ends?