

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS **LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2012 GRANT**

The School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts is pleased to offer a full grant for an individual to attend our annual Legislative Action Conference (LAC) March 4- 7, 2012 in Washington DC at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. This is a great opportunity especially for first time attendees.

This conference is an exciting and educational experience, which allows us as School Nutrition Professionals to educate congress about our national program and local needs. This year will be exciting as we continue to learn about implement of President Obama's Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, along with other SNA legislative priorities. The voices of school nutrition always ring out loud and clear during SNA's LAC, and this year will be no different. Bring your expertise, your passion and your stories to Washington, D.C., and prepare to shape and define national policy relating to school nutrition.

Involvement in the legislative process of our association brings amazing professional and personal growth and satisfaction. It allows us the opportunity to implement change at the highest possible level, mobilizing the house and senate to take action and care for the nation's most precious commodity; our children. Last year, we had visits from our former President Bill Clinton and USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack who came to speak with us about the challenges we face and the importance of our work. You, along with over an anticipated 1,000 members representing all states across the county attending, will learn all aspects of our annual Legislative Issue Paper prior to visiting the hill together. This will allow you to communicate our message to our elected officials and offer them recommendation how to support our programs and students.

Highlights of the 2012 conference include:

- A dynamic pre-conference session! This training will cover various aspects on how to lobby at the state level, tips on how to get your legislators support, and how to prepare and deliver compelling testimony on your unique issues and challenges.
- A political insider's look at the current political climate and insight on the upcoming election. Learn about the composition of the Congress and the challenges facing lawmakers in 2012.
- Presentations from several top leaders in Congress, USDA and allied organizations, all of whom will address the major issues facing the school nutrition arena.
- Keynote speaker detail to follow ~ always an amazing personality.

Recipients of this grant must attend all four days and sessions and must be a member of SNA prior to requesting consideration for the grant. Preference will be given to first time attendees.

**Applications must be returned via email by January 9th or postmarked by January 6^h, 2012
Grant Recipient will be notified on January 20, 2012.**

Attached you will find the application for this grant. Please complete and e-mail to astronach@lawrence.k12.ma.us or you may mail it to:

Anne Marie Stronach
Nutrition Director
Lawrence Public Schools
255 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

I can be reached at 978-722-8448 if you have any questions or concerns.

APPLICATION FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE 2012

Name: _____

District: _____

Position: _____

Number of Years in this position _____

1. How long have you been involved in School Nutrition Programs?
2. Have you ever held or do you hold a position in the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts?
 - A. If so, please provide name of position.
3. Have you had any experience in legislation/lobbying/testifying?
4. Please write a personal essay (not to exceed one page) stating:
 - a) Your interest in attending the Annual Legislative Action Conference
 - b) Your interest in Legislative Activities in our Association and State
 - c) What you expect to gain and contribute by attending the conference
 - d) Any leadership qualities or leadership positions you have held
 - e) Other information you feel is important for us to consider
 - f) Approval to attend Conference

Please submit this application via email by January 9th or postmarked by January 6th, 2012

You will be informed as to our decision by January 20th, 2012

Thank you for your interest in the conference. We appreciate the time taken to complete this application.

- The complete cost of the conference attendance is estimated to be approximately \$2,225.00
 - Conference Fee
 - Hotel (single room or possibility of cost sharing if a roommate is acceptable)
 - Airfare
 - Ground & Misc