



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 22, 2013

Contact: April Jurisich, MPH, RD, Healthy Students Initiative Coordinator, (530) 245-6843

---

### FUNDING AWARDED TO IMPROVE SCHOOL MEALS AND CAFETERIA ATMOSPHERES

SHASTA COUNTY – Nine local school districts were awarded funding to make enhancements to their school meals and/or cafeteria during the 2013-14 school year. The Healthy Students Initiative, as part of Healthy Shasta, has awarded \$174,000 among the districts.

- Anderson Union High School District: Up to \$9,500 for serving equipment at Anderson New Technology High, salad bars for Anderson Union High, and reusable student trays for both Anderson Union High and West Valley High;
- Black Butte Union School District: Up to \$29,000 to expand the breakfast program, increase meal participation, and purchase additional kitchen equipment to allow for additional from-scratch cooking;
- Cascade Union Elementary: Up to \$6,000 for new warming units to improve food safety and quality;
- Columbia School District: Up to \$53,000 to increase from-scratch cooking by purchasing additional kitchen equipment and to increase school meal participation through promotions and education;
- Cottonwood Union School District: Up to \$6,000 to purchase fruit and vegetable slicers to make food preparation and serving easier and to purchase a new dishwasher for reusable trays;
- Enterprise Elementary School District: Up to \$32,500 to purchase a tilt skillet at Monte Vista and improve the cafeteria environment at Shasta Meadows;
- Happy Valley Union School District: Up to \$20,000 to continue improvement of the cafeteria environment, expand the breakfast and school garden programs, and purchase additional kitchen equipment;
- Mountain Union School District: Up to \$11,000 to purchase a new stove for from-scratch cooking and to add a cooler for milk safety and quality;
- Oak Run School District: Up to \$7,000 for kitchen equipment to increase additional from-scratch cooking and supplies to expand the garden and greenhouse program, which provides fresh produce to the school meal program.

During the 2012-13 school year, the following schools were awarded funds to make improvements.

- Bonny View Elementary School purchased an additional two-door refrigerator (approximately



Anderson Partnership for  
Healthy Children/South  
County HEAC

City of Anderson

City of Redding

City of Shasta Lake

County of Shasta

First 5 Shasta

Mercy Medical  
Center

Redding Rancheria

Redding School District

Shasta College

Shasta County Office of  
Education

Shasta County RTA

Shasta Family  
YMCA

Shasta Head Start

Simpson University

The McConnell  
Foundation

Turtle Bay Exploration  
Park

University of California  
Cooperative Extension

Viva Downtown

Whiskeytown National  
Recreation Area

\$4,200) to store and serve a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, which increased produce purchases by 8% in the first year.

- Burney Elementary School spent approximately \$20,000 to modify their “cafetorium” so that the eating space is differentiated from the gymnasium. They created a pleasant cafeteria eating environment which is more conducive to students eating and enjoying their healthy meals, reducing meal waste, and producing awareness of a healthy lifestyle. This change was accomplished through painting the café walls, creating a café façade with new counters, tile, and awning, and purchasing new food trays. In addition, the eating periods were extended by five minutes and the sound system was replaced so that soft music can be played during meals.
- Happy Valley Union School District began to update the kitchen and cafeteria environment at the elementary site in an effort to provide more from-scratch cooking and increase participation. With the almost \$39,000 grant, several new pieces of equipment were purchased including a warming station, fresh water dispensers, a convection oven, and an industrial mixer. In addition, the cafeteria has been updated with paint, noise reduction banding, and improved aesthetics to make the eating experience more enjoyable. The school garden received additional garden beds as a way to grow more produce for inclusion in the school meal programs.
- Manzanita Elementary School spent about \$19,000 to purchase an additional baking oven and a longer food preparation counter to allow for additional from-scratch cooking.
- Pacheco Elementary School replaced a dishwasher and purchased new reusable student trays as a way to decrease waste with their \$14,000 grant. Students immediately noticed the new food trays and believed the food was more appealing on the “French Blue” trays.
- Shasta Meadows Elementary School was granted \$4,000 to purchase a new mixer to allow for additional from-scratch cooking.

The Healthy Students Initiative (HSI) will release funding applications in March or April 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Check the Healthy Shasta website ([www.healthyshasta.org](http://www.healthyshasta.org)) in the future for more information.

HSI is a seven-year Healthy Shasta project to implement solutions to address childhood obesity in Shasta County school communities. The Healthy Students Initiative is funded by The McConnell Foundation, Shasta Family YMCA, and Shasta County Public Health in partnership with Bella Vista, Cypress, and Lassen View schools. The overall goal is to improve the health and academic success of Shasta County students in three schools and to develop a roadmap for other local schools.

For more information, visit [www.healthyshasta.org](http://www.healthyshasta.org) or call (530) 245-6843.

# # #