



## News Release

For immediate release: September 16, 2025

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## **Chef Ann Foundation Awards 161 Salad Bar Grants to Schools Nationwide, Expanding Fresh Food Access for Students**

**Boulder, CO** –The Chef Ann Foundation announced the award of 161 salad bar grants to schools across the United States in 2024. This initiative will provide students daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables through school lunch programs. These grants are made possible through generous funding from mission-aligned partners. Thank you to Whole Kids, a pillar of Whole Foods Market Foundation dedicated to improving children’s health and wellness through nutrition. Thank you to the Denver Broncos Foundation, an organization committed to making a positive impact on future generations through physical, mental and emotional health.

The Salad Bars to Schools grant program is part of Chef Ann Foundation’s ongoing efforts to improve school food nutrition, providing K-12 schools with the equipment and training needed to implement self-serve salad bars in their cafeterias. Each grant, valued at \$4,794, includes the salad bar unit, pan inserts, training and marketing materials, online Salad Bar training courses from the School Food Institute and implementation support.

“These salad bars are helping schools meet the growing demand for fresh, whole foods and less processed meals,” said Mara Fleishman, CEO of the Chef Ann Foundation. “It’s incredible to hear stories from districts where salad bars are changing the conversation about food – kids are trying new things, families are talking about healthier choices, and schools are seeing a real shift in eating habits.”

“We’re proud to partner with the Chef Ann Foundation on the Salad Bars to School program in order to give students direct access to fresh, nutritious foods,” said Daniel Zoltani, Executive Director at Whole Foods Market Foundation. “When kids can choose from a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables at school, we’re helping build healthy eating habits that will benefit them for life.”

Schools receiving the grants span 19 states. The program prioritized schools with high free and reduced lunch participation rates to ensure the greatest impact on students who might otherwise have limited access to fresh produce.

This initiative builds on Chef Ann Foundation's successful track record of implementing over 6,200 salad bars in schools nationwide since 2010. Data shows that salad bars, when paired with operational and marketing best practices, have the power to increase students' consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. For more information, visit:

<https://www.thelunchbox.org/apply-for-a-grant/salad-bars-to-schools/>

### **About Chef Ann Foundation**

[Chef Ann Foundation](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to ensure that school food professionals have the resources, funding, and support they need to provide fresh, healthy, delicious, scratch-cooked meals that support the health of children and our planet. To date, the organization has reached more than 14,000 schools and 3.4 million kids with healthy school programming. Learn more on our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).