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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Riverview Gardens School District Receives \$368,515 in Stimulus Grant For Food Service Equipment

Kim Bryant feels like her school district has won the lottery. She's the food service director for the Riverview Gardens School District, which won a competitive grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in July. The district received \$368,515 in stimulus money to purchase new cafeteria equipment.

Bryant said the district will use the money to purchase new American-made, Energy Star-rated milk coolers, freezers, ovens and refrigerators. They will be replacing old and worn out equipment with new energy efficient models.

"We're replacing some equipment that is older than 15 years," said Bryant. "The biggest thing is that we are going to build a big freezer and cooler at the warehouse. That will eliminate the need to rent storage space outside the district and save food service over \$12,000 a year in storage fees."

The purpose of the grant is to stimulate the American economy while improving the infrastructure of the National School Lunch Program. Schools are asked to spend the money immediately on food service equipment that will improve food safety, energy efficiency and the quality of school food service meals.

Riverview Gardens' new equipment will be installed in cafeterias across the district. New gas convention ovens will be installed at Central Middle and at Lewis and Clark, Koch and Moline elementary schools. Glasgow, Highland, and Meadows elementary schools will each get a new refrigerator. Central Middle and Glasgow, Highland, Lewis and Clark, Meadows, Koch, and Moline elementary schools will get new milk coolers. The Danforth Campus will also get refrigerators, convention ovens and a dishwasher. The biggest item on Bryant's shopping list is a \$145,000 walk-in freezer for Riverview Gardens' warehouse site.

According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 363 Missouri schools or educational agencies competed for the ARRA grant money. Riverview Gardens was one of only 25 agencies to receive funding.

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