

# The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

## 2026 Jump Start Grant

### Terms and Conditions



The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (“NRAEF”) oversees and awards certain grants to schools interested in providing restaurant and foodservice industry educational opportunities for their ProStart students, with such awards being made pursuant to the terms and conditions provided herein or as otherwise specified by NRAEF.

The JumpStart grant offers an opportunity for ProStart students to participate in an immersive educational industry event, which includes attendance at the National Restaurant Show in Chicago, IL, currently scheduled for May 16 – 19, 2026.

**Application Eligibility:** A school may submit one (1) grant application for the JumpStart grant. The school must be participating in the ProStart program at the time of application submission. Completion of the application does not guarantee the applicant school will receive the grant. Deadline for submission is November 10, 2025 at 11:59pm ET. NRAEF’s will use an impartial judging panel to review and evaluate each application to attempt to find the applicant school that best fits the grant criteria as it relates to the goals and mission of the grant and program. If selected, the school will be notified by November 21, 2025 and the school will have until January 10, 2026 to agree to and meet the conditions and requirements for release of the award, otherwise the award will be forfeited and another eligible applicant school will be selected.

#### **The following conditions must be met before the grant award is released:**

If selected for the award, the school must select a minimum of six and up to eight (8) ProStart students (age 16 and older as of the time of the JumpStart event) and two (2) adult chaperones (one adult per every four students under the age of 18) that are able to attend the JumpStart event. NRAEF will also send a grant agreement for completion by the school containing additional grant terms along with a declaration of eligibility, waiver and release form and associated event code of conduct (“Declaration/Release”) for completion by each ProStart student (of if a minor, their parent or guardian) and each adult chaperone that plans to attend and participate in the JumpStart event. Selected students must be sixteen (16) years of age as of the first day of the JumpStart event in order to attend. The selected school must sign the grant agreement with NRAEF and submit it along with all properly completed and signed Declaration/Releases within the two (2) week period following notification of selection. A properly executed Declaration/Release is required for an individual to attend the JumpStart event. All attendees must also comply with NRA Show requirements for attendance, including meeting a ratio of one adult for every four student attendees under the age of 18. Students who are under the age of

majority in their state of residence at time of entry (18 in most states) must have written permission of a parent or legal guardian to participate in and attend the JumpStart Event. If NRAEF does not receive all completed and signed documents and/or any other requirements for the release of the award are not met by this date, the school may not be eligible to receive the grant, and another school will be selected to receive the grant.

**Distribution of Grant Funds:** Grant funds are non-transferrable. Up to \$5,000 (but no less than \$2,500) in funds will be distributed directly to the grant recipient school for distribution by the school to cover incidental expenses incurred by its attendees at the JumpStart event in Chicago. The amount will be determined based on, availability of funds and the number of individuals attending **and location of the awarded school**. The grant will also cover travel and hotel expenses for the school's selected attendees (up to 8 eligible students and 2 adult chaperones) and the school will work directly with the NRAEF's travel agent to book such transportation and hotel for eligible attendees. Any unused awarded funds received by the school must be used by the school to support participation in 2026 by the school's ProStart students in other approved immersive restaurant and foodservice industry educational experiences and programming designed to launch and support successful industry careers, or returned to NRAEF as more particularly outlined in the grant recipient agreement with NRAEF. JumpStart grant applicants, event attendees and the grant recipient may be asked to participate in follow-up meetings and surveys regarding the JumpStart experience.

**Grant Eligibility; Changes.** Any changes with respect to the applicant's eligibility, such as a change in the status as a ProStart school or lack of eligible student and/or chaperone attendees, may result in the forfeiture of the applicant's eligibility and therefore the grant award. Employees and the immediate family members of employees of NRAEF, National Restaurant Association, their affiliates and any state restaurant association (and/or their associated foundation) are ineligible for the JumpStart grant funds offered by NRAEF. Further, employees and immediate family members of donors sponsoring specific grants, scholarships or related funding are ineligible for such grant awards and scholarships. All decisions made with respect to grant eligibility, these terms and conditions, the grant award process and the JumpStart event shall be made at NRAEF's sole discretion.