



FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

1. What Is the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program? The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to students in participating elementary schools during the school day.

The goal of the FFVP is to improve children's overall diet and create healthier eating habits to impact their present and future health. The FFVP will help schools create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices; expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption

2. When Did the FFVP Become a National Program? The FFVP began as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program, authorized by Congress under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) in a limited number of States and schools. The purpose of the pilot was to identify best practices for increasing fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among students, and to determine the feasibility and students' interest.

In 2008 the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 established the FFVP as a permanent program and also expanded the FFVP nationwide to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-234) amended the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) by adding section 19, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and substantially increased the funding level.

3. Who May Participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program? The 50 States, District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands participate. The FFVP is targeted to elementary schools with the highest free and reduced price enrollment.

4. Who Administers the Program? The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the FFVP at the Federal level. At the State level, the FFVP is usually administered by the State education agency, which operates the program through agreements with school food authorities (SFA).

5. How Does the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Work? Elementary schools participating in the program receive between \$50.00 - \$75.00 per student for the school year. The State agency decides the per-student funding amount for the selected schools based on total funds allocated to the State and the enrollment of applicant schools.

With these funds, schools purchase additional fresh fruits and vegetables to serve free to students during the school day. They must be served outside of the normal time frames for the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The State agency or SFA determines the best method to obtain and serve the additional fresh produce.

Schools participating in the FFVP submit monthly claims for reimbursement which are reviewed by the SFA before payment is processed to the State agency. Schools are reimbursed for the cost of fresh fruits and vegetables and limited non-food costs.

Schools must follow all food safety requirements and HACCP guidance.

6. What are the Program Requirements for Eligible Elementary Schools? Schools have the flexibility to develop their own implementation plan, choose the type of produce, number of days a week (FNS strongly encourages schools, whenever feasible, to offer the FFVP no less than 2 days a week) and times during the day (outside of NSLP and SBP operation) to provide free fresh fruits and vegeta-



bles to their students. Eligible elementary schools must submit an application that includes:

- the total number of enrolled students and the percentage eligible for free/reduced price meals;
- a certification of support for participation in the FFVP signed by the school food manager, school principal and the district superintendent (or equivalent position)
- a program implementation plan including efforts to integrate the FFVP with other efforts to either promote sound health and nutrition.

Schools are also encouraged to develop partnerships to help implement the program, such as with local universities, extension services and local grocers. Schools must also agree to widely publicize the availability of the program.

7. How Do Schools Purchase Fruits and Vegetables for the Program? Schools may purchase their fruits and vegetables through the same system they make purchases for the NSLP and SBP. They may acquire produce through the DOD Fresh program, or they may purchase locally. In all cases, schools must follow proper procurement procedures and produce must be purchased according to existing local, State and Federal guidelines.

8. How Is the Program Funded? Beginning school year 2012/2013, the base funding made available for the FFVP was adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending the preceding April 30 in the Consumer Price Index. In addition, this is combined with any recovered prior year funds. As such, the total funding for the FFVP in school year 2013/2014 is \$ 165.5 million. Funding amounts in all subsequent years will also reflect these adjustments.

The funding level per state is determined through a formula allocation as described in the NSLA and provided through the States' Letter of Credit.

In School Year 2008-2009 the total funding for FFVP was \$40 million and rose to \$150 million in school year 2012-2013.

For More Information:

For information on the operation of the FFVP Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the State agency in your state that is responsible for the administration of the programs. A listing of all our State agencies may also be found on our web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/office-type/child-nutrition-programs>, select your State from the drop down box and select "apply."

You may also contact us through the Communication Division at 703-305-2281, or by mail at 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 926, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

September 2013

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Program History

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorized the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Pilot in 4 states and 1 Indian Tribal Organization (Zuni, New Mexico). The purpose of the pilot was to determine the best practices for increasing fruit (both fresh and dried) and fresh vegetable consumption in schools.

As a result of the Program's popularity, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 added 4 more states (Pennsylvania, Mississippi, North Carolina, Washington), 10 schools in South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, and 8 schools in Arizona's Tribal Council (3 schools in the Gila River Pima Community and 5 schools in the Tohono O'odham Community).

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006, Public Law 109-97, appropriated money to expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to include: Utah, Wisconsin, New Mexico (25 schools), Texas, Connecticut, and Idaho. The Farm Bill amended the National School Lunch Act by eliminating section 18(f) and adding section 19, the FFVP and provided significant changes from the previous program. New section 19 includes:

- Changes to funding and amounts, increases for the next 3 SYs and then adjustments based on the Consumer price Index in all subsequent years.
- Number of schools that can participate, no longer 25 and determined by the per student allocation.
- Determination of allocation of funds to States and school.
- Funds now available for State administration.
- School selection criteria and requirements.

The Program is now Nation-wide in selected schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Last Published: 09/12/2013