

February 15, 2022

Dear School Nutrition Leaders,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant is an annually awarded federal grant that provides funding for fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to be served in elementary schools across the United States.

Through a collaborative effort between participating schools and the Georgia Department of Education, the FFVP strives to achieve the following goals:

- Expand the variety of fruits and vegetables that children experience
- Increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Impact children's present and future health by making a difference in their diets

Schools that participate in the program must offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to students during the school day, outside of regular meal service periods. Through nutrition education provided with the FFVP, students learn about the health benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables.

This school year, 186 elementary schools across Georgia were awarded an FFVP Grant, with over \$5,985,625 in funds to support the program.

Eligibility

Under this grant, elementary schools with the highest percentage of free and reduced-price eligibility are encouraged to apply and will be considered first for selection to participate. Priority will be given to those elementary schools with 50% or greater free and reduced-price meal eligibility. ***Pre-K students may participate in the FFVP only if the students are physically located in the same building as the applicant elementary school.***

Use of Funds

Funds must be used primarily to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. However, a small percentage of funds may be used for operating and administrative costs, such as value-added purchases, preparation, and distribution of fruits and vegetables.

Expectations of Participating Schools

Awarded schools must participate in annual training and manage grant funding to **ensure that all funds are utilized**. They will promote the availability of the program throughout the school and provide nutrition education. Schools will begin FFVP operations at the start of School Year (SY) 2022-2023 and provide the FFVP to all enrolled students.



Selection Criteria

Schools will be selected in accordance with the USDA's guidelines for this grant. Some of the criteria that will be reviewed include the following:

- Elementary schools in which 50 percent or more of its students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals will be given priority.
- Compliance with the administration of Child Nutrition Programs.
 - New schools and schools that are new to the FFVP must have successfully completed one year of the NSLP (National School Lunch Program) and SBP (School Breakfast Program). They must also have completed one successful Administrative Review (AR) prior to consideration for the FFVP. (Non-Traditional Schools that started the NSLP/SBP prior to SY 2021-2022 must have completed one successful AR).
 - Returning schools must have demonstrated successful administration of the FFVP and management of grant funds.
- All schools must provide a certification of support signed by the school nutrition manager, school principal, district school nutrition director, and the district superintendent or equivalent positions, as determined by the school.

For more information about the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, please visit [https://snp.gadoe.org/Programs/Pages/Fresh-Fruit-Vegetable-Program-\(FFVP\).aspx](https://snp.gadoe.org/Programs/Pages/Fresh-Fruit-Vegetable-Program-(FFVP).aspx)

How to Apply

Please complete the SY 2022-2023 FFVP application and submit it **no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022**. One application must be completed for each school wishing to be considered for participation.

Send the completed application via email to FFVPgrant@doe.k12.ga.us. Only applications submitted electronically will be accepted.

Please contact **Mari Toyohara**, Grant Specialist, at mtoyohara@doe.k12.ga.us if you have any questions regarding this grant.

We hope that you will consider taking part in the FFVP as another way to help your students develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

Sincerely,



Dr. Linette Dodson, RD, LD, FAND, SNS
State Director, School Nutrition Division
Georgia Department of Education