



Arizona Department of Education

Health and Nutrition Services Division

HNS# 04-2020

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities with Elementary School Sites Operating the National School Lunch Program

From: Melissa Conner, Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Date: February 24, 2020

Subject: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Applications Open March 1, 2020

Original Signed

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is pleased to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant applications for School Year (SY) 2020-2021 will open March 1, 2020. Applicants that are awarded FFVP funds for SY 2020-2021 will receive funding for both Period 1 (July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020) and Period 2 (October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). To be considered for the grant, each school must submit both the Period 1 and Period 2 FFVP applications by April 10, 2020.

The goal of the FFVP is to contribute to a healthy school environment by providing healthy food choices, expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption, and helping shape children's diets to impact their present and future health.

Schools must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the FFVP:

- Operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools must comply with Federal and State guidelines for operating the program.
- Be an elementary school. An elementary school is any school that serves lunch to students in grades preschool through 8th grade.
- Have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Priority is given to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Submit completed FFVP Period 1 and FFVP Period 2 applications for each site that is interested in participating.

For eligibility purposes, FFVP applicants must use their school's free and reduced-price percentage from October 2019. To determine eligibility for the FFVP, please view the October 2019 Free and Reduced-Price Percentage Report (SY 19-20) located at:

<http://www.azed.gov/hns/frp/>.

The FFVP applications are available in the Grants Management Enterprise (GME) system located at <http://gme.azed.gov/>. GME is accessible through the ADEConnect portal as the Grants Management application. If you have not used ADEConnect in the past or are uncertain if you have the proper credentials, please contact either your Entity Administrator or the ADE Support Desk at (602) 542-2222 or adesupport@azed.gov. Your log-in credentials for the Common Logon system will not work with ADEConnect. In addition, you will want to work with your LEA User Access Administrator to ensure that you have the proper user role(s) assigned in GME. Contact grants@azed.gov with any questions regarding GME user roles.

ADE will be hosting an informational webinar titled, “Overview of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for SY 2020-2021” on March 4, 2020 from 1:30-2:30pm MST. This webinar will overview the application and operating requirements for FFVP during SY 2020-2021. This webinar is open to all who wish to participate. Please register at <https://ems.azed.gov/>. The webinar recording will be available following the live presentation at <http://www.azed.gov/hns/nsfp/ffvp/> under the training tab.

If you are unable to access the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program application or need technical assistance in completing the application, you may contact the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Coordinator Jessa Zuck at (602) 542-8790 or jessa.zuck@azed.gov. **Paper applications will no longer be available or accepted.**

Completed applications for both FFVP Period 1 and FFVP Period 2 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, April 10, 2020 in order to be considered for funding.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.