

USDA Food & Nutrition Service

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):

Quick Facts



Programs

Food Stamp Program
National School Lunch Program
School Breakfast Program
Summer Food Service Program
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
Special Milk Program
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
Nutrition Assistance Block Grants
Commodity Supplemental Food Program
The Emergency Food Assistance Program
Disaster Assistance



Description

- Provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs from farmers at authorized farmers' markets or roadside stands, or with shares in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs for regularly distributed bags or boxes of eligible foods.
- Works to increase the consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding, developing or aiding in the development and expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSA programs.
- Operates in areas of 38 States, 6 tribal organizations, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Background

- The program was created as a pilot program in FY 2001; it was established by Congress as a permanent program in FY 2002 under the Farm Bill, which must be reauthorized for FY 2008.
- Grant funds may be used to support both food and administrative costs: up to 10 percent of a State agency's total SFMNP grant may be used as administrative funds.
- SFMNP participants' Federal food benefit may not be less than \$20 or more than \$50 per year, per participant, with certain exceptions allowed for State agencies that are grandfathered into the permanent program, based on their participation in FY 2006. State agencies may supplement the per participant benefit level.

Participants

- In FY 2006, 825,691 participating low-income seniors purchased food from 14,575 farmers at 2,911 farmers' markets, as well as 2,323 roadside stands, and 260 CSA programs.
- Low-income seniors at least 60 years old who have household incomes of not more than 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines (\$25,327 for a two-person household as of July 1, 2007).

Budget

- \$15 million in FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Contact Information

- For complete information, visit www.fns.usda.gov/wic/SeniorFMNP/SFMNPmenu.htm. View agency listings at www.fns.usda.gov/wic/SeniorFMNP/SFMNPcontacts.htm.

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