



Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program FY 2022 Updated State Plan Information for VA DARS

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is collecting this information in order to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables through farmers' markets and roadside stands to WIC participants and low-income seniors, and to expand awareness and use of, and sales at, farmers' markets and roadside stands through the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). This is a mandatory collection and FNS will use the information to ensure the efficient management of the FMNP and SFMNP. The collection does not request personally identifiable information under the Privacy Act of 1974. Responses will be kept private to the extent provided by law and FNS regulations. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control numbers for this information collection are 0584-0447 and 0584-0541. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. ATTN: PRA (0584-0447/0584-0541). Do not return the completed form to this address.

SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM
WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM
Updated Consolidated State Plan Information
Fiscal Year 2022

Unless submitting a comprehensive State Plan, each State agency must provide, at a minimum, the following information, including budget pages, to their respective FNS Regional Office, annually. Any State agency interested in receiving expansion funds, should such funds become available during FY 2022, must also complete the **Request for Expansion Funds pages**.

State Agency: VA DARS

A. FY 2021 Participants Served:

Number of SFMNP participants (those issued SFMNP coupons/food instruments, bulk purchase food boxes or bags and/or CSA benefits) served with federal and State funds in FY 2021 (previously participating fiscal year):	Number of FMNP recipients (those issued coupons/food instruments) served with federal and State funds in FY 2021 (previously participating fiscal year):
SFMNP: <u>10,254</u>	FMNP: <u>3,934</u>

B. Please provide estimates for FY 2022:

1. Estimated number of SFMNP participants to be served with SFMNP federal and State agency funds in FY 2022:

(Excluding Expansion)

(Including Expansion)

11,000

13,350

2. Estimated number of FMNP recipients to be served with FMNP federal and State agency funds in FY 2022:

(Excluding Expansion)		(Including Expansion, If Any)
<u>550</u>	Pregnant women	_____
<u>250</u>	Breastfeeding women	_____
<u>370</u>	Postpartum women	_____
<u>500</u>	Infants (over 4 months of age)	_____
<u>2400</u>	Children (if sub-categories of children, e.g., ages 1-2 years old and 3-4 years old are	_____

	defined by the State agency, please indicate accordingly)	
<u>N/A</u>	Other designation (e.g., only Priority I pregnant or breastfeeding women; specify): _____	_____
<u>4070</u>	Total _____	_____

3. Check (X) for the type of SFMNP/FMNP recipients to whom benefits will be issued:

SFMNP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Households	FMNP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Households
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4. Benefit Level

a. The Federal benefit amount that each **SFMNP** participant will receive in FY 2022 is \$45.

Is this a change from last year? Yes No

§ 249.8(b) of the Federal SFMNP regulations states that the Federal SFMNP benefit level received by each participant, whether a household or individual, may not be less than \$20 per year or more than \$50 per year, except for certain State agencies that were grandfathered into the SFMNP using a different benefit level.)

b. The lowest Federal benefit amount that any **FMNP** recipient will receive in FY 2022 is \$30 and the highest is \$30. If the State agency uses varying benefit amounts, please list all of the new benefit levels, indicating the recipient categories affected. N/A

Is this a change from last year? Yes No

(**Please note:** Federal FMNP regulations at § 248.8(b) state that the value of the Federal FMNP benefits received by each recipient, or by each family within a household in those States which elect to issue benefits on a household basis under §248.6(c) may not be less than \$10 per year or more than \$30 per year.)

5. Do you plan to use non-federal funds to provide SFMNP/FMNP benefits to other participants?

SFMNP Yes No **FMNP** Yes No

If you answered **YES** for **SFMNP**, please describe how such participants will be identified and certified and the benefit amount that will be provided. For **FMNP**, please describe this caseload; include the name(s) of the program(s) and the sources of non-federal funds:

N/A

6. If fruits, vegetables, and/or fresh herbs have been **added** to/or **deleted from** the State agency's list of eligible foods for FY 2022, list (or attach a list) of those items. Please note that honey is eligible only for the SFMNP.

No change

7. Proposed months of Program operation (i.e., months of benefit usage by participants): June through November

8. Proposed months of coupon/food instrument issuance: May through September

9. Are tokens used at authorized farmers' markets? Yes No

If Yes, please describe how they are used in the market. _____

10. Are all participants provided with a receipt through the CSA program?

Yes No N/A

If No, please describe the procedure in more detail. _____

11. Are any markets authorized to accept Cash Value Vouchers/Benefits (CVV/CVB's)?

Yes No

If Yes: Statewide or Selected Areas Please list.

12. Are any farmers authorized to accept Cash Value Vouchers/Benefits (CVV/CVB's)?

Yes No

13. Do any farmers allow participants to order eligible foods by phone or online for pick-up and payment at the market? (Please note: This question has been added to Section II. General Administration of the complete Consolidated State Plan Guidance.)

Yes No

If yes, please list the farmers or markets or provide a map detailing which offer online ordering and cite appendix reference.

14. Describe the State agency's coupon replacement policy or include the statement that FMNP/SFMNP coupons will not be replaced. (Please note: This question has been added to Section V. Food Instrument, Farmers' Market, Roadside Stand, Bulk Purchase, and CSA Program Management of the complete Consolidated State Plan Guidance.)

FMNP/SFMNP coupons will not be replaced

15. Do you provide nutrition education resources online? Please provide links or attach examples. (Please note: Section VII. Nutrition Education Requirements has been edited so that any nutrition education resources that are provided online should be identified.)

No

16. For SFMNP only: Provide a detailed explanation or attach the State's policy explaining when and how participant signatures are obtained to designate a proxy and/or to verify income eligibility (e.g. at time of application, at another time during the season; provided written, text, email, other electronic format, etc). (Please note: Questions in Section IV. Certification have been edited to capture this information.)

The senior applicant must fully complete and sign the application during each season through September. The senior must read or have read to him or her, the certification language advising them of their rights and obligations under SFMNP. The senior's signature indicates that they understand the certification language. This is true for any applicant for SFMNP benefits.

Seniors, who wish to do so, must also fully complete and sign the form designating the proxy.

The proxy may not be a staff member of the State or Local Agency, or a farmer participating in the program.

If the senior cannot present the application in person, the person acting as a proxy will bring the application (which includes the senior applicant's self – declaration of income), the senior's proof of age and residence (copies will be acceptable), and the proxy designation request signed by the senior, to the enrollment location.

The proxy will also show identification verifying they are the proxy named by the senior participant.

One person may serve as a proxy for a maximum of 3 senior participants.

17. Indicate the total number of local agencies serving SFMNP/FMNP participants, and the number of each type of farmers, farmers' markets, and/or roadside stands authorized. Also indicate review activity below:

New Fiscal Year: <u>2022</u>	FMNP	SFMNP
Total # Local Agencies Participating	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>
# of local agencies to be reviewed (This is the # of local agencies <i>not</i> the # of participating clinics, unless designated as local agencies.)	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Total # Farmers Markets Authorized	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
# to be reviewed (min 10%)	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total # Farmers authorized	<u>210</u>	<u>210</u>
# to be reviewed (min 10%)	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>
Total # Roadside stands authorized	<u>30</u> (authorized Farmers operating from roadside stands)	<u>30</u> (authorized Farmers operating from roadside stands)
# to be reviewed (min 10%)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total # of CSAs		<u>N/A</u>
# to be reviewed (min 10%)		<u>N/A</u>

Previous Fiscal Year: <u>2021</u>	FMNP	SFMNP
Total # Local Agencies Participating	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>
# of local agencies reviewed (This is the # of local agencies <i>not</i> the # of participating clinics, unless designated as local agencies.)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
Total # Farmers Markets Authorized	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
# of markets reviewed	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total # Farmers authorized	<u>197</u>	<u>197</u>
# of farmers reviewed	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>
Total # Roadside stands authorized	<u>27</u> (authorized Farmers operating from roadside stands)	<u>27</u> (authorized Farmers operating from roadside stands)
# Roadside stands reviewed	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
Total # of CSAs		<u>N/A</u>
# of CSAs reviewed		<u>N/A</u>

18. a. Briefly summarize key findings and corrective actions taken as the result of local agency reviews in FY 2021.

One agency's policy related to acceptance of participant applications required updating to align with DARS' Income Eligibility & Guidance document.

b. Briefly summarize key findings and corrective actions taken as a result of farmer/market/roadside stand/CSA reviews in FY 2021.

Two farmers were suspended for the rest of the 2021 growing season and all of

the FY 2022 growing season for a second offense of accepting S/FMNP coupons for produce that was purchased from a wholesaler. Another farmer was suspended for the rest of this season for accepting S/FMNP coupons for produce that was purchased from a wholesaler (first offense). A fourth farmer was sent a warning letter related to accepting S/FMNP coupons for produce that was purchased from a wholesaler.

C. In light of recent changes in technology for both the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), it is important that State agencies clearly identify how SFMNP/FMNP benefits are provided to participants. Since the inception of the Programs, SFMNP/FMNP benefits have most often been provided using food instruments. In the event that a State agency is using a different delivery method such as Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), it is expected that where applicable, the State agency address how that method applies to SFMNP and FMNP.

1. Are any markets currently providing benefits using EBT?

Yes No

If yes, for which programs? WIC SNAP FMNP SFMNP

2. Do you anticipate providing SFMNP or FMNP benefits using EBT?

Yes No

If yes, when? _____ In all markets or in selected areas? _____

Funding Information:

1. Under the FMNP, is the State agency applying to use not more than 2 percent of the total Program funds for market development and/or technical assistance in FY 2022?

Yes No

(If yes, provide the justification for requesting market development or technical assistance funds meeting the criteria set forth in § 248.14(h) of the federal FMNP regulations). Include a detailed description of how the State agency plans to promote the development of farmers' markets. _____

FMNP Matching Funds:

1. Per § 248.14(a), describe the source(s) and amounts the State agency intends to use to meet the minimum **30 percent State/ITO match requirement** for the FMNP, which will be \$_____ for your State/ITO in FY 2022 based on the Federal Funds Request and State/ITO Matching Funds worksheets.

(Note that the 30 percent minimum match requirement applies only to the total

administrative cost of the program, although the State agency may meet this match requirement with State/ITO local, or private funds provided for food as well as administrative costs):

Type	Source	Amount
State/ITO and local funds		\$5010
Private funds		
In-kind Contributions		
Similar Programs		
Program Income		
Total FMNP Match Amount: \$5010		

State/ITO and local funds. If available, attach documentation, such as a copy of appropriation legislation, budget page containing this line item, etc.

Private Funds. Include a detailed description of all cash donations or letters of commitment from the organizations or individuals planning to make such donations.

[N/A](#)

In-kind Contributions. If any portion of the State agency’s minimum 30 percent matching requirement will be met through in-kind contributions, describe the in-kind contribution, its value, and how the value was determined, including any supporting documentation.

[N/A](#)

Similar Programs. Federal funds provided for SFMNP or any other FNS program (e.g., Specialty Crop or Farmers’ Market Promotion Program grants awarded by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service) **cannot** be used as a match source. Include the title of the program, the source of funding and a brief description of how the program operates.

[N/A](#)

Program Income. Describe type and source. (More specific information can be found in [WIC Policy Memorandum #2005-3, Price Adjustments, Collections, Fines, and Program Income](#)) [N/A](#)

Reminder to Current SFMNP/FMNP State agencies:

In addition to the Updated State Plan section just completed, the following documents must also be provided to FNS before the SMNP/FMNP State Plan can be approved for FY 2022:

- a. FY 2022 Estimated Federal Budget Summary (Please see Section III – Funding. If using the excel worksheet provided to assist with calculations, please attach a copy of the worksheet to this section or cite appendix reference ____.);
- b. Expansion Request for those State agencies requesting expansion funds;
- c. Using the Appendices lettering/numbering system shown below, a description of any other procedural changes or amendments to the State Plan that have occurred since the previous State Plan submission and approval by FNS, such as a change in the benefit level, new months of program operation, the numbers and addresses of new farmers' markets, roadside stands, and/or local agencies, and a new map showing the location of these new outlets or facilities; and
- d. Federal-State Supplemental Nutrition Programs Agreement (FNS-339), expiration of 4/30/2022.

Include all of your Appendices here. Please identify clearly any pages according to the lettering system used in this format.

Required Appendices – [see separate attachment: VA_2022_Appendices Index.doc](#)