



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: School Food Authorities

FROM: *Denise Hagan*  
Denise Hagan, Division Director  
School and Community Nutrition

RE: Grant Opportunity for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

DATE: April 9, 2012

The Kentucky Department of Education is looking for elementary schools, schools containing grades PreK-6 or any combination thereof, to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) during the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

Kentucky has been allocated \$2,746,543 for use during the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013. At a minimum of \$50 per student over the course of the year, that amount will allow us to serve some 54,930 students.

Funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is available for the 2012-2013 school year through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill), which amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by adding Section 19, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The purpose of the program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption by elementary school children. Kentucky will be awarded a specified amount for the grant period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The grant will be awarded in two parts: July 1 – September 30, 2012 and October 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

Section 19 of the National School Lunch Act requires that schools with the highest free and reduced price enrollment be given priority for participation in the FFVP. Kentucky's application review will be based on the percentage of students certified as eligible for free and reduced price benefits. This key selection criterion will ensure that the FFVP benefits low-income children that generally have fewer opportunities to consume fresh fruits and vegetables on a regular basis. Multiple schools from the same district can apply although not all are guaranteed to be chosen. Schools must agree to offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to all enrolled students during the school day, a minimum of 3 days per week and at a time other than meal service periods. A small percentage of operating funds may be used for expenses such as value added purchases and the preparation and distribution of fruits and vegetables. Ten percent of the total grant award may be used for administrative expenses. The project should be structured so that maximum benefits go to children.

Participating schools are required to complete a training session prior to utilizing the awarded funds, submit monthly expenditure reports, maintain program records, adhere to program guidance, and utilize the awarded funds by the end of the allotted period.

Schools will be selected based on guidance and oversight by USDA. Section 19(d) of the National School Lunch Act states the selection criteria for schools to participate in this program:

- ✓ Schools must have **50% or more** of its students eligible for free/reduced price meals.
- ✓ To the maximum extent possible, highest priority will be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students.
- ✓ Schools must be elementary schools, or have the ability to separate out elementary students in a K-12 program.
- ✓ Schools must operate the National School Lunch Program.
- ✓ Schools must complete and submit a FFVP application.

Applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grant must provide the following:

- ✓ A plan for implementation and operation of the program that includes a partnership with 1 or more entities that provide non-Federal resources (including entities representing the fruit and vegetable industry) for the acquisition, handling, promotion, or distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables; or other support that contributes to the purposes of the program, such as nutrition education.
- ✓ A certification of support signed by the school food service manager, the school principal, and the district superintendent or equivalent positions as determined by the school.
- ✓ A show of a continuing emphasis on student health and wellness.

Previous participation in the program will not outweigh the percentage of free/reduced price students in enrollment. It is highly recommended that schools who are interested in applying download a copy of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook to review basics of the grant requirements. The web address to download a copy can be found at the following link: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/ffvp/handbook.pdf>.

The grant application will be available soon and will be located on the Kentucky Department of Education website at Competitive Grants from KDE. An email will be forthcoming to advise Superintendents of the posting.

KDE plans to announce awards in June, 2012 and funds will be available in July. Awarded schools districts must enter into a written agreement with KDE.

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