



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program School Year 2026-2027 Federal Fiscal Year 2027

Application Deadline: June 30, 2026, 4 PM ET	RFA Issued By: Kentucky Department of Education Division of School and Community Nutrition
Address Questions In Writing To: <u>KDERFP@education.ky.gov</u> Email Subject: FFVP 2025/26 Deadline for Submission of Questions: June 5, 2026	Submission: Online via CNIPS application (Child Nutrition Information and Payment System)
Comments/Special Instructions: ☐ For Free and Reduced Lunch Percentages, from the most current <u>Qualifying Data</u> posted on KDE website will be used. ☐ KDE reserves the right to waive minor technical deficiencies.	

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Purpose

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), authorized in Section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 USC 1769a, is a nationwide program that operates in select elementary schools in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The FFVP provides all children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options.

Funding

- The funding amount is contingent upon the USDA's allocation for the FFVP in Kentucky for the 2026 - 2027 school year.
- Funds will be allocated for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- An amount of \$50 - \$75 per child will be allocated based on the availability of funds.
- Funds are to be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables that are made available at no charge to students. A small percentage of funds may be used for operating and administrative costs incurred, such as labor costs, the preparation and distribution of fruits and vegetables, small equipment, and renewable supplies.

Eligibility

To be selected for the FFVP, a school must:

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP);
- Be an elementary school;
 - Schools inclusive of any grade between kindergarten and grade 8 are considered an elementary school for the purpose of the FFVP, per KRS 157.310 (6).
 - Preschool students may participate in FFVP if awarded school contains grades kindergarten through grade 8.
 - Grades 9 through 12 cannot participate in FFVP.
- Represent the highest percentage of students certified for free and reduced price benefits; and
- Complete an annual application for the FFVP in the CNIPS system.

Requirements

Participating schools must complete the following after being awarded the FFVP grant:

- Make free fresh fruits and vegetables available to all enrolled children
- Provide fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the NSLP and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal periods, but only during the school day (not before or after school or during summer school)
- Widely publicize within the school the availability of free fresh fruits and vegetables
- Have documented support of the food service manager, food service director, school principal, and district superintendent
- Upon initial approval, submit a plan that will include the number of serving days and projected monthly amount of FFVP funds to be spent at the school with the intention of spending the entire FFVP allocation.

- Throughout the year, to support the initially submitted plan, provide information about participation, purchases, and costs to the State Agency.

Overview of the Application Process

1. Participation in the application process is made available by invitation only through CNIPS. SCN will send notification when invitations are available in CNIPS, if you did not receive an invitation and feel this was an oversight, please contact KDERFP@education.ky.gov.
2. If interested, complete CNIPS application submission instructions. See attachment.
3. KDE reviews all submitted applications and will notify those awarded the FFVP grant.
4. If awarded, Sponsors will need to complete the following:
 - a. Annual FFVP training
 - b. FFVP Budget Worksheet
 - c. Signature Page*
 - d. Addendum to State Agency School Food Authority Agreement FFVP*

**If a Sponsor was previously awarded the FFVP grant in the preceding school year (2025 – 2026), these are only needed if there has been a change in the School Cafeteria Manager, School Principal, Nutrition Program Director, or District Superintendent.*

Selection Criteria

Schools will be selected by the State Agency, based on the statutory requirements and guidance by USDA found in Section 19 of the National School Lunch Acts.

Selection criteria for schools to participate in this program:

- Be an eligible school.
- Priority for participation will be given to schools submitting applications with the highest percentages of low-income students.
- Demonstration of previous successful financial management of the FFVP grant will be awarded before applicants that have not demonstrated successful financial management of the program.

Please note, Sponsors are expected to spend 100% of their FFVP allocation. Failure to spend a minimum of 80% or more of the allocation throughout the school year or regularly communicate budgetary changes to the Division of School and Community Nutrition may result in the disqualification from future FFVP grant awards.

Application Deadline

The Kentucky Department of Education must receive, in the CNIPS system, application by **June 30, 2026**. Applications received after this time and date will not be reviewed or considered for award. Furthermore, applications not complying with any of the technical requirements may be deemed non-responsive. It is the applicant's responsibility to check the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) regularly for new information (including changes) regarding this solicitation. Applicants are responsible for contacting the Kentucky Department of Education confirming the receipt of their application.

CNIPS Submission Instructions

Recommendation: Document/save the answers for the FFVP Site Application for each site before logging into CNIPS. The site questions you will be required to answer for each site can be found on page 2 and 3 of this Application Guide.

1. Login to CNIPS (CNIPS) and enter the School Nutrition Program module.
2. Click **Applications** in the blue menu bar.
3. Click **FFVP Application Packet**.
4. Click **Detail** for the *2026-2027* School Year.
5. You will be prompted to confirm enrollment for the current year. Click **Enroll**.
6. Click **Add** beside the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Sponsor Application.
(Note: If you do not see the option to click Add beside Sponsor and Site Applications you have not been invited to participate. If you feel that this was an oversight, please notify KDE.)
7. Enter the Contact Information and select all Invited Sites that you would like to participate. Click **Save** to complete the Sponsor Application and you will return to the Application Packet screen.
8. Click **Add** beside the Site.
(Note: You MUST complete a site application for EACH site you want to participate.)
9. Answer the School Proposal questions. (If you followed the Recommendation above you can simply copy your answers and paste them into the corresponding questions.)
When all questions are answered click **Save**.
10. **Repeat** steps 8 and 9 for all Sites applying for FFVP.
11. **Download and Complete** the FFVP Signature Page for each site. *Note – If the site has previously participated in the FFVP and there are no changes in the parties listed on the FFVP Signature Page, the form is not required.*
12. **Save and Upload** the completed FFVP Signature page to each site application.

Congratulations, once you have completed Site Applications for all sites you are done.

Repeat steps 8 and 9 for all Sites.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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