

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

Program Overview



COLORADO
Department of Education

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The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a grant program administered at the federal level by the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and at the state level by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) School Nutrition Unit.

The goal of the FFVP is to increase children's exposure to and consumption of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables provided at no cost to children, during the school day. The FFVP exposes children to a variety of fresh produce while educating students about the benefits of fruits and vegetables. Teaching children healthful eating habits may help promote a healthy school environment and is a creative and effective way to improve student's overall health and wellbeing.

How does the FFVP Funding Work

FFVP funding operates on a federal fiscal year; each year, USDA announces the FFVP funding allocation per state. FFVP funds are distributed in two separate allocations, available for utilization from July 1st to June 30th of the current school year.

Approved FFVP schools are awarded a per student allocation of \$50-\$75. Grant funds are utilized to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and cover program operations and administration.

How do Schools Apply

Elementary schools are selected for the FFVP through an annual application process. Priority is given to schools with the highest percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Schools must develop a plan for the implementation and promotion of the program, which includes establishing partnerships and providing nutrition education. Applying schools must also ensure support from the teachers, principals, superintendent and food service director. Interested schools must submit a completed application in the [CO Child Nutrition Hub](#), by the defined deadline.

Expectations of Participating Schools

Approved FFVP schools must:

- Participate in annual FFVP training.
- Advertise and promote the availability of the program throughout the school.
- Provide fresh fruits and vegetable to all enrolled students.
- Provide nutrition education.
- Manage grant funding to ensure all funds are utilized.
- Comply with all program regulations

FFVP Qualifying Criteria Applicants must:

- Be an elementary school
- Begin FFVP operations at the start of the school year
- Have 50 percent, or more, students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals
- Demonstrate program administration and exemplary operations based on the evaluation rubric for FFVP applications.
- Complete and submit the application, by the defined deadline.
- Have support of the school administration, including the teachers, principals, superintendent, and food service director.
- Demonstrate compliance with administration of the Child Nutrition Programs

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Questions to Consider when Applying for the FFVP

- How many times per week will the program be offered?
- When and where will the program be implemented?
- How often will fresh fruits and vegetables be served?
- Is there support from the faculty, staff, community, principal, and superintendent to implement the FFVP?
- Who will submit monthly claims for reimbursement?
- How will nutrition education be provided to students?
- Who will establish a monthly budget to assist in tracking FFVP funds?
- What will the implementation or operation plan look like to ensure FFVP guidelines are followed?
- Do partnerships with local farmers, grocers, health departments or extension services need to be established?

For more information visit:

[CDE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program website](#)

[USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Handbook](#)

[USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Toolkit](#)

[CO Child Nutrition Hub](#)

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