



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TO: Authorized Representatives
National School Lunch Program

FROM: Sharon L. Davis, MS, RD
Director, Nutrition Services

SUBJECT: Invitation to Apply for USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is available for the 2016-17 school year through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234). The purpose of the program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary school children. Nebraska will be awarded a specified amount for the grant period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The grant will be awarded to schools in two parts: July 1 - September 30, 2016 and October 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

To be eligible to participate, an elementary school, as defined in Rule 10, must have 50 percent or more of their students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To the maximum extent possible, priority will be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students. See *Attachment A* for the list of buildings within your district that are eligible to apply. Selected schools must offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to students during the school day a minimum of two days a week or as frequently as possible during the school week and integrate the program with other wellness activities. Funding to each school will be based on the school's enrollment.

Enclosed with this memo is the *Nebraska Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application for School Year 2016-17*. In addition to the application packet, we are also enclosing a copy of USDA's *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook (December 2010)* to give you additional information about the program. If you are interested in applying for this program, complete and return the three-part application to Nutrition Services postmarked by **April 8, 2016**. The enclosures listed below are on our web site at <http://www.education.ne.gov/ns/nslp/FFVP/FFVP.html>

All school districts that apply will be notified of the results by **May 13, 2016**. For schools that have been participating in the FFVP, Nutrition Services reserves the right to not renew a school's application if a good faith effort was not made to spend their awarded funds.

Online training for the FFVP will be available this summer.

If you have any questions, please contact Nutrition Services at 800-731-2233 or 402-471-2488.

Enclosures (6): Instructions
Part 1 – *School Profile*
Part 2 – *Questionnaire*
Part 3 – *Signature Page*
Attachment A: List of Schools Eligible to Apply for the FFVP
USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Handbook