



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Facts About Farmers' Market Equipment Funds and Participation in SNAP

Accepting SNAP at your farmers markets is a win-win-win situation. It gives you direct access to new customers, gives SNAP recipients access to healthy food, and encourages consumption of locally-grown produce. Federal funds are now available through September 30, 2013, to help SNAP authorized farmers markets and direct marketing farmers purchase and operate wireless point-of-sale equipment. Learn the facts about how you can participate.



Who is eligible to receive this funding?

Funding is only available for SNAP authorized direct marketing farmers and farmers markets. A farmers market is defined as a multi-stall market at which farmer-producers sell agricultural products, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables (but also meat products, dairy products, and/or grains), directly to the general public at a central or fixed location. Direct marketing farmers are individual producers of agricultural products. In order to qualify for the funding announced today, the direct marketing farmer must sell products at a market stall within a farmers market that is not currently participating in SNAP.

How can I become authorized to accept SNAP benefits at my farmers market?

The SNAP application is on-line at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/fm.htm> and requires only basic information. Market owners, partners, and board members must share copies of their photo identification and their social security card. If your market is required to have a business license, you must also provide a copy of that license. In general, no other documents are necessary.

How long does it take to become SNAP authorized?

Once all the necessary information is submitted, FNS will issue a decision within 45 days. In most cases FNS is able to process complete applications even faster.

Is the information I provide during the application process shared with other parties?

The application information is used only for SNAP authorization and monitoring purposes, is safeguarded, and not shared.

Can non-profit organizations operate more than one SNAP-authorized farmers market?

Non-profit organizations *can* operate more than one SNAP-authorized farmers market as a parent or umbrella organization; however the parent organization must obtain a new and unique SNAP authorization number for each new farmers market it opens and for any existing markets that want to operate their own EBT equipment. The parent organization does not need separate bank accounts for each market.

Who should I contact for information about funding for wireless point-of-sale equipment?

Your SNAP State agency distributes these funds and is your single point of contact. Find your State contact information at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/docs/State-List.docx>.

How can I find out which types of point-of-sale equipment and services will work in my market?

There are many vendors offering equipment and services to farmers markets. Information on some equipment options is provided at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/pdfs/Farmers_Markets_Vendor_Info.pdf. This information will help you determine which equipment and services may meet your needs.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).