

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District School Food Service Directors  
Elementary School Principals

**FROM:** Ellen Mason  
Interim Director, Office of Health and Nutrition

**DATE:** April 22, 2025

**RE:** 2025-26 USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is available for the 2025–26 school year through Section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The purpose of the FFVP is to provide students in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruit and vegetables as healthy snack options throughout the school day (at times other than at breakfast, lunch, or in an afterschool program).

The FFVP targets elementary schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals (at least 50 percent or higher). Schools will be selected based on the highest percentage of eligible students using the October 2024 Meal Count Data by Site (SNP Lunch) data collected in the South Carolina Automated Payment System (SCAPS).

The SCDE will offer a pre-application technical assistance webinar via [Adobe Connect](#) on **April 28, 2025**, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Participants may log in up to 30 minutes in advance of the session to test their equipment and download handouts. For repeat participants, while participation is not mandatory in order to submit an application, it is *highly* recommended. For first-time applicants, it is *mandatory* to attend this session.

Eligible public schools (current participants and new applicants) must submit an [application online](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, to the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE's) Office of Health and Nutrition. The Application Submission Instructions provide directions on how to properly complete and submit the application. Additional information is available on SCDE's [FFVP Grant Opportunities Webpage](#). Applications received after the deadline *will not* be considered for funding.

April 22, 2025

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact [FFVP@ed.sc.gov](mailto:FFVP@ed.sc.gov), Diane D. Gillie at 803-734-8193 or Imani Wilson-Peterkin at 803-734-4586. We hope that you will consider participating in the FFVP as another way to help your students develop lifelong healthy eating habits.