

Section 1000

Introduction

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Section 1000 Introduction

1100 Program Description

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) offers the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) to low-income seniors, using farmers' markets. This program is designed to increase seniors' consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and provide opportunities for farmers to sell their produce locally.

1200 Administration

TDA has an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer the SFMNP in Texas and does so in accordance with federal and state requirements. The contracting entity (CE) may reference these requirements in the following sources:

- Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) CFR Part 249, *Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program*
- 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*

TDA distributes administrative funds, if available, to participating CEs, such as nonprofit organizations and public agencies, that

- Determine the eligibility of applicants,
- Conduct nutrition education activities for eligible clients, and
- Distribute vouchers for clients to redeem for produce at local farmers' markets or through bulk purchases of foods.

TDA's responsibilities include the following activities

- Administering the SFMNP in Texas,
- Disbursing administrative funds,
- Assisting CEs in the operation and management of the SFMNP, and
- Monitoring the SFMNP to ensure that reimbursement is used for SFMNP purposes.

CEs' responsibilities include the following activities:

- Complying with the terms of SFMNP Agreement,
- Implementing and operating an approved financial management system,
- Distributing vouchers to eligible participants,
- Certifying eligible participants in the SFMNP,
- Maintaining SFMNP records,
- Submitting vouchers for reimbursement,
- Distributing funds to farmers' market associations, and
- Monitoring to ensure the SFMNP is operating according to regulations.

NOTE: The CE may find forms for operating the SFMNP on the TDA website. Access the TDA website at <http://www.squaremeals.org/>, go to "Programs," click on "Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program," choose SFMNP Administration and Forms," then input the form title or form number in the appropriate search field. TDA will notify CEs when it posts new or revised forms and instructions on the website.

For any required form that does not have an electronic version, TDA will provide a paper version for CE's use.

1300 Other Programs

TDA administers the SFMNP through agreements with nonprofit organizations or public agencies in Texas. TDA also administers the following USDA nutrition programs:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
- Food Distribution Program (FDP) for Child Nutrition Programs
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
 - Afterschool Care Program (ASCP)
 - Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

CEs may receive additional information about these programs on the TDA website at <http://www.squaremeals.org/>. For CEs that do not have internet access, please contact TDA at (877) TEX-MEAL.

If a CE is approved to participate in more than one program, it must ensure that it

- Maintains separate records for each program, and
- Attributes costs to the appropriate program.

1400 Funding

Each year, USDA grants administrative funding to TDA to administer and operate the SFMNP in Texas.

1500 Appeals

CEs have the right to appeal certain actions TDA takes that adversely affects their participation in the SFMNP, including the denial of applications. Refer to Section 8000, *Denials, Terminations and Appeals*, for additional information regarding appeal rights.