



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE: April 7, 2011

MEMO CODE: SP 27-2011

SUBJECT: Expansion of Opportunities for Additional States to Apply for Direct Certification Planning and Implementation Grants

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Agencies
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Considering new provisions of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Section 101) that require States to improve their direct certification rates for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is expanding opportunities for States to apply for the Direct Certification Planning and Implementation grants. The Fiscal Year 2010 Application for Funding for Direct Certification Grants was announced in July 2010 and offered two opportunities for States to apply for Planning grants and quarterly opportunities to apply for Implementation grants, beginning November 1, 2010. To be eligible to apply for this funding, States' direct certification rates for SNAP children had to be at or below the 72% national median rate, as reported by the latest annual Direct Certification Progress Report to Congress.

FNS is expanding grant eligibility to include States that have direct certification rates that are above 72% but below 80%, as reported in the 2010 Report to Congress. This will open opportunities to twelve additional States. Also, there will be two new opportunities to apply for Planning grants for **all eligible States** who have not applied previously for a direct certification grant -- July 29, 2011 and October 31, 2011. Maximum awards remain at \$75,000 for Planning grants and \$1 million for Implementation grants. The Direct Certification grant application amendment is attached to this memorandum.

States Eligible to Apply for Direct Certification Grants

Effective **immediately**, States on the following list are eligible to apply for Direct Certification Grants. States on this list that have already applied for Planning or Implementation grants **are not affected** by this change and should continue with their grant projects as planned.

States Eligible to Apply for Direct Certification Grants			
Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	Rhode Island*
Arizona	Iowa	New Hampshire*	South Carolina
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey*	South Dakota*
California	Louisiana	New Mexico*	Utah
Colorado	Maine	New York	Vermont
Connecticut*	Massachusetts	North Dakota*	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington*
Georgia	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Idaho*	Missouri*	Oregon*	Wisconsin*
Illinois	Montana*	Pennsylvania*	

* The asterisk indicates States that had already applied for a Planning grant or Implementation grant as of the date of this amendment. Please note that the District of Columbia also applied for a grant under the original grant announcement based on their direct certification rate reported by the 2009 Report to Congress. Their 2010 rate is above 80% so they are not shown on this list and are not affected by this change.

The following restrictions continue to apply:

- States may hold only one grant at a time under this grant announcement;
- States may not apply for more than one Planning grant and one Implementation grant;
- States that apply for Planning grants must complete the activities of that grant within 210 days of the Planning grant award date and follow up within that same 210-day time frame with an Implementation grant application, unless the Planning grant activities indicate that an Implementation grant is not needed; and
- States that apply for an Implementation grant without first applying for a Planning grant will not be eligible to apply for a Planning grant.

Application Deadlines

Any State on the list that has not yet applied may apply for grants according to the application deadline schedule given below. Hard copy applications must be received by FNS no later than the stated deadline dates. Applications submitted electronically, via www.grants.gov, must be received no later than 11:59PM (Eastern Time) on the dates listed. FNS intends to award such grants approximately 90 days thereafter.

Direct Certification	
Grant Type	Deadlines for Receipt of Applications
Planning	July 29, 2011 October 31, 2011
Implementation	April 29, 2011 July 29, 2011 October 31, 2011 January 31, 2012
Implementation Grant Applications Following a Planning Grant Award	<p>States that receive Planning grant awards must submit an application for an Implementation grant within 210 days following their Planning grant award date (unless their Planning grant activities indicate there is no need for an Implementation grant). The due dates for Implementation grant applications will be established with grantees following the Planning grant awards and will fall outside the dates listed for Implementation grant applications above.</p> <p>The approximate dates that the follow-up Implementation grant applications will be due are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 31, 2011 for Planning grant applications received by November 1, 2010 • December 31, 2011 for Planning grant applications received by February 28, 2011 • May 31, 2012 for Planning grant applications received by July 29, 2011 • August 31, 2012 for Planning grant applications received by October 31, 2011

Important: If at any point the total applications received for funding exceed the amount of Federal funds available for this purpose, FNS reserves the right to give preference to applications from State agencies with the lowest direct certification rates, deny grant applications in excess of funds available, and cancel further opportunities to apply under this grant announcement.

Regional Directors
State Directors
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Grant Documents and Resources

Eligible States are encouraged to view the full request for application announcement and amendment documents for detailed information concerning the grant application process. These documents are located at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm> under the heading “**2010-2012 Direct Certification Grants.**”

The 2010 report, “*Direct Certification in the National School Lunch Program: State Progress in Implementation Report to Congress,*” may be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/CNP/cnp.htm>. We urge States to review the report in depth to learn not only where States stand currently on direct certification rates, but also to learn about practices in other States that may be helpful in planning for direct certification improvements.

State agencies with questions regarding this memorandum should contact their FNS Regional Office. Regional Offices may contact Vivian Lees at 703-305-2322 for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Cynthia Long
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Original Signed

Lael J. Lubing
Director
Grants and Fiscal Policy Division

Enclosure

USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE
Fiscal Year 2010
Application for Funding for Direct Certification Grants
Amendment
April 7, 2011

The **FY 2010 Application for Funding for Direct Certification Grants** has been amended to make the following changes:

1. **Section III. Who May Apply** (pages 5-7) is replaced with updated information on who is eligible to apply for grants going forward under the amended announcement.
2. **Section V. Critical Dates** (pages 9-10) is revised to update opportunities and deadlines to apply for Planning and Implementation grants under the amended announcement.

The full request for application announcement and amendment documents are located at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm> under the heading “**2010-2012 Direct Certification Grants.**” The document revisions are stated below. All other information in the original announcement remains unchanged.

REVISIONS

Section III. Who May Apply

Per Section 749(h) of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-80), grants are available to State agencies that administer NSLP and have the lowest direct certification rates for children who are members of SNAP households. FNS obtains the list of States with the lowest direct certification rates for SNAP children from the annual report on direct certification that FNS submits to Congress (*Direct Certification in the National School Lunch Program: State Progress in Implementation Report to Congress*). As of the date of this amendment, lowest rates are defined as **below 80%**, as reported in the 2010 Report to Congress, covering School Year (SY) 2009-2010. The full report was released in October 2010 and may be accessed at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/CNP/cnp.htm>.

The 2010 Report to Congress indicated that the following States have direct certification rates below 80% for SNAP children. These States are eligible to apply for Direct Certification Planning or Implementation grants, if they have not applied previously.

States Eligible to Apply for Direct Certification Grants			
Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	Rhode Island*
Arizona	Iowa	New Hampshire*	South Carolina
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey*	South Dakota*
California	Louisiana	New Mexico*	Utah
Colorado	Maine	New York	Vermont
Connecticut*	Massachusetts	North Dakota*	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington*
Georgia	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Idaho*	Missouri*	Oregon*	Wisconsin*
Illinois	Montana*	Pennsylvania*	

* The asterisk indicates States that had already applied for a Planning grant or Implementation grant as of the date of this amendment. These States **are not affected** by this change and should continue with their grant projects as planned. Also note that the District of Columbia also applied for a grant under the original RFA based on their direct certification rate reported by the 2009 Report to Congress. Their 2010 rate is above 80% so they are not shown on this list and are not affected by this change.

Section V. Critical Dates

States that appear on the revised list in Section III and who have not yet applied for a direct certification grant as of the date of this amendment may apply for grants according to the application deadline schedule given below. Hard copy applications must be received by FNS no later than the deadline dates listed. Applications submitted electronically, via www.grants.gov, must be received no later than 11:59PM (Eastern Time) on the dates listed. FNS intends to award such grants approximately 90 days thereafter.

Direct Certification	
Grant Type	Deadlines for Receipt of Applications
Planning	July 29, 2011 October 31, 2011
Implementation	April 29, 2011 July 29, 2011 October 31, 2011 January 31, 2012
Implementation Grant Applications Following a Planning Grant Award	States that receive Planning grant awards must submit an application for an Implementation grant within 210 days following their Planning grant award date (unless their Planning grant activities indicate there is no need for an Implementation grant). The due dates for Implementation grant applications will

Direct Certification	
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	<p>be established with grantees following the Planning grant awards and will fall outside the dates listed for Implementation grant applications above.</p> <p>The approximate dates that the follow-up Implementation grant applications will be due are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 31, 2011 for Planning grant applications received by November 1, 2010 • December 31, 2011 for Planning grant applications received by February 28, 2011 • May 31, 2012 for Planning grant applications received by July 29, 2011 • August 31, 2012 for Planning grant applications received by October 31, 2011

Important: If at any point the total applications received for funding exceed the amount of Federal funds available for this purpose, FNS reserves the right to give preference to applications from State agencies with the lowest direct certification rates, deny grant applications in excess of funds available, and cancel further opportunities to apply under this grant announcement.

Grant Documents and Resources

All grant application documents related to the Direct Certification grant announcement are located at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm> under the heading “2010-2012 Direct Certification Grants.”