

Subject: Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**Item: Educating Participants on Using FMNP Benefits**

PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for participant instruction on proper use of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefit provided by the California Department of Public Health/Women, Infants and Children Division (CDPH/WIC)

POLICY:

- I. Local agency (LA) staff must ensure that all participants and/or their alternates receiving FMNP benefits are instructed on the proper use of the benefit.

PROCEDURE(S):

- I. LA staff must inform each participant and/or alternate who receives FMNP benefit of the following:
 - A. Where and when to use the benefit, including:
 1. A list of nearby markets authorized to accept the FMNP benefit. The list can include a simple map and/or directions to the WIC-authorized markets.
 2. When the benefit is valid for use by participants (between the start-up date and November 30 of every year).
 3. Who can accept the benefit. The FMNP benefit can only be accepted by WIC authorized farmers who are selling fresh, locally grown produce at a WIC authorized market. These lists can be found at www.wicfarmers.ca.gov.
 4. WIC-authorized farmers and markets must display the current *WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Checks Welcome* authorization sign. Participants must not give the benefit to a farmer at a stall that does not display the sign.
 5. The FMNP benefit must not be used at roadside farm stands, farm stores, grocery stores or to buy produce from non-authorized farmers.
 - B. A list of eligible and non-eligible foods. The FMNP benefit is used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and fresh cut herbs only. No honey, nuts, eggs, flowers, baked goods, dried fruit, plants, or non-food items may be purchased with the WIC FMNP benefit.
 - C. The FMNP benefit is not transferable to another person.
 - D. No change must be given or returned to participants as part of a WIC FMNP transaction. When the amount of the sale is less than the dollar value of the

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benefit, the farmer may add additional fruit or vegetables to the purchase to bring the sale as close as possible to the benefit's value.

- E. Participants may pay with cash or CalFresh EBT card if the purchase of eligible produce goes beyond the value of the FMNP benefit.
- F. No sales tax must be charged on produce sold.
- G. Participants must not be charged a higher price than other customers at the market for the same produce.
- H. A torn, damaged or altered benefit or benefit without a proper identifier cannot be used.
- I. The benefit must be handled securely like cash.
- J. The benefit must not be exchanged with the farmer for cash.
- K. Lost or stolen FMNP benefits or will not be replaced. Participants must report lost or stolen benefits to their LA.
- L. Participants can file a complaint against a farmer or market.

AUTHORITY:

[7 CFR §248.10](#)

[7 CFR §248.7](#)

RESOURCE:

LA may direct participants to the CDPH/WIC FMNP website at www.wicfarmers.ca.gov for the most current list of WIC-authorized farmers' markets.

WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Checks Welcome authorization sign