



USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE
Fiscal Year 2013
Request for Applications for
Direct Certification Improvement Grants
Amendment I

July 29, 2013

The **FY 2013 Request for Applications (RFA) for Direct Certification Improvement Grants** has been amended to make the following changes:

1. **Cover Page.** The fiscal years covered by the RFA have been changed to FY 2013-2014 and four additional application opportunities have been added in FY 2014. Throughout the remainder of the RFA document and appendices, the grants are referred to FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.
2. **Section II. Direct Certification Improvement Grant Types** (pages 6-7) is amended to explain the types of grants (Tier 1 and Tier 2) that State agencies may apply for during the extended RFA period in FY 2014.
3. **Section IV. Critical Dates and Award Periods** (page 11) is amended to include the four additional opportunities to apply for FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.
4. **Section V. How to Submit an Application for Funding** (page 11-12) is amended to include the four additional deadlines to apply for FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.
5. **Section VI. What to Include in the Application Package** (pages 13-15) is amended to include the four additional deadlines to apply for FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.

FNS reserves the right to close this RFA at any time that available funds are exhausted.

The full request for application announcement and amendment documents are located at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm> under the heading “**FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.**” The document revisions are stated below. All other information in the original announcement remains unchanged.

REVISIONS

Cover Page

The following chart has been updated to include four additional application dates for Tier 1 – Simplified Limited-Scope Planning and Implementation Grants and Tier 2 Full-Scope Implementation Grants.



Grant Type	Application Due Date (if funds remain available)	Maximum per Award
TIER 1 – Simplified Application for Limited-Scope Planning & Implementation Grants (up to 1 year grants)	<u>Revision: New Dates</u> October 1, 2013 January 2, 2014 April 1, 2014 July 1, 2014	\$150,000
TIER 2 Application for Full-Scope Implementation Grants (1 to 3 year grants)	<u>Revision: New Dates</u> October 1, 2013 January 2, 2014 April 1, 2014 July 1, 2014	\$1,000,000

Section II. Direct Certification Improvement Grant Types

This section is amended to explain the types of grants (Tier 1 and Tier 2) that State agencies may apply for during the extended RFA period in FY 2014, as follows.

State agencies may apply for **only one grant award** during the extension year of the RFA-- October 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014.

- States that applied for a **Tier 1** grant in the original RFA period (February 1 through July 1, 2013) may apply for a second Tier 1 or for a Tier 2 award during the extended RFA period (October 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014).
- States that applied for a **Tier 2** grant in the original RFA period (February 1 through July 1, 2013) may not receive a second Tier 2 award, but may apply for a Tier 1 award under the extended period.
- No more than one application will be accepted from any State agency in any single fiscal year, and no more than two grants--two Tier 1 grants, or one Tier 1 and one Tier 2--will be awarded to any State agency over all the application periods of this RFA combined (February 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014).

Examples are given in the following chart (written with the assumption that all applications will lead to approved awards, unless withdrawn by the State):

Situation	State may apply for a <u>Tier 1</u> grant during RFA Extension - Oct 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014	State may apply for a <u>Tier 2</u> grant during the RFA Extension - Oct 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014	State may apply for <u>both</u> a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 grant during the RFA Extension - Oct 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014
State applied for a <u>Tier 1</u> grant in the RFA period Feb 1, 2013 through July 1, 2013	Yes	Yes	No
State applied for a <u>Tier 2</u> grant in the RFA period Feb 1, 2013 through July 1, 2013	Yes	No	No
State did <u>not</u> apply for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 grant in the RFA period Feb 1, 2013 through July 1, 2013	Yes	Yes	No



Section IV. Critical Dates and Award Periods

This section is amended to four new application deadlines for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Direct Certification Improvement Grants in fiscal year 2014, all on the first workday of the given month—***October 1, 2013; January 2, 2014; April 1, 2014; and July 1, 2014.*** Applications received after July 1, 2014 will not be considered for awards.

Section V. How to Submit an Application for Funding

The section is amended to include the four additional deadlines to apply for FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants—***October 1, 2013; January 2, 2014; April 1, 2014; and July 1, 2014.*** **Only one grant application in response to this solicitation will be accepted from any State agency during the application deadlines in fiscal year 2014—October 1, 2013 through July 1, 2014.** The amended section also explains that applications must be submitted via Grants.gov and must be received **by 11:59 pm eastern time** on the application due date. Applications submitted after a given deadline will be held and processed with those received at the next deadline. Applications received after the July 1, 2014 deadline will not be processed.

Section VI. What to Include in the Application Package

Table 1 (Checklist for Tier 1 Simplified Application Package) and Table 2 (Checklist for Tier 2 Simplified Application Package) are amended to include the four additional deadlines to apply for FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants—***October 1, 2013; January 2, 2014; April 1, 2014; and July 1, 2014.*** The deadlines are the same for both types of grants.

Important Information

The CND grants website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm> will be updated to indicate closure of the RFA if grant funds are exhausted before July 1, 2014 (the final application deadline). If this occurs, the closure information will display as a notice on this public website.

Potential applicants should check the website to ensure that funds are available before submitting an application. 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 deny grant applications in excess of funds available, and cancel further opportunities to apply under this grant announcement.

All questions regarding the application and electronic submission notification should be referred to the FNS Grant Officer, Carla Garcia via e-mail at Carla.Garcia@fns.usda.gov. ***Please be aware that the grants.gov system provides several confirmation notices; you need to be sure that you have confirmation that the application was accepted. If the applicant has not received confirmation of a successful submission or needs technical assistance; please contact the Grants.gov helpline at 1-800-518-4726 or email the help desk at support@grants.gov.***

Grant Documents and Resources

State agencies 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 “FY 2013-2014 Direct Certification Improvement Grants.”