Summer EBT FY19 RFA
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **How much funding is available? Is the $30 million for administrative funds only or does that also include food benefit funds? Is that funding for one year only, or is it for all three years?**

    The funding range provided in the RFA is the full amount USDA plans to spend on *projects* approved through this RFA, i.e., administrative and food benefit funds, *to support three summers* of operations. However, only administrative funds will be awarded through this RFA; applicants do not need to request funding for food benefits at this time. *Your budget should reflect the administrative costs associated with operating a three year project*, where food benefits would be provided for three consecutive summers. Food benefit funds will be provided to successful applicants on an annual basis as needed to support the number of children approved to serve for each summer via a separate process. Therefore, your proposal should provide an estimate of the number of children you propose to serve for three summers so FNS can reserve funds for that amount if your project is selected.

    The number of awardees and the amount awarded to each awardee will be contingent on the size of the projects selected. The size of an award under this grant would be dependent upon the level of administrative costs and the value of food benefit funds needed to support the number of children approved to be served. An applicant may request any amount of administrative funds needed to operate the project. For example, an applicant proposing to serve 25,000 children each summer for three years might request $1 million to cover administrative costs for three years. In addition, USDA would reserve an additional $6,750,000 to cover food benefit costs for the 25,000 children over three summers ($2,250,000 annually). The total project cost would be $7,750,000.

2. **The individual award floor listed in the opportunity on grants.gov is $500,000. Does this mean that if an applicant does not request a minimum grant of $500,000, the applicant will not be considered?**

    USDA estimated $500,000 to be a minimum amount that might be required by a State agency to implement a Summer EBT project for 3 summers, based on administrative costs from previous projects. It would not disqualify an applicant to propose a lower amount. However, applicants should note pages 21-22 of the RFA, which discusses allowable use of funds. In addition, SNAP, WIC, NSLP and other partner program funds may not be used for this demonstration. If existing SNAP, WIC, or NSLP staff will work on the Summer EBT demonstration, the proposal should clearly specify how salaries and any fringe benefits will be allocated among SNAP, WIC, or NSLP and Summer EBT funds.

3. **What if an applicant isn’t able to get letters of support from all schools and/or SFAs before the application due date? Will applications be considered if they contain some, but not all, letters?**

    It is USDA’s expectation that proposals identify and secure the cooperation of SFAs and/or schools in the proposed service area. Applications that do not include such documentation would not receive the full amount of points related to this requirement. If it is not possible to obtain all school or SFA letters before the application is submitted, we recommend including an explanation of missing elements and a plan for when and how such letters will be obtained. Selected applicants would be expected to provide letters of commitment or agreements from individuals authorized to commit staff and/or resources within the schools and SFAs expected to participate in the project, prior to being awarded funds.