

Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Gus Schumacher

Nutrition Incentive Program

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 16, 2026

ANTICIPATED FUNDING: \$36,300,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-FINI-011905

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.331

ANNOUNCEMENT
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.331.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, June 16, 2026 [Ref to Part I, C of this NOFO]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to the extent permitted by law, will no longer make grants or otherwise fund programs or activities that improperly discriminate on the basis of race or sex, including discrimination in the name of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Instead, USDA will prioritize merit and efficiency. USDA recognizes programs and initiatives will have the greatest impact when these programs and initiatives put American farmers, ranchers, and foresters first by:

- solving the most pressing challenges they face;
- protecting America’s food, fuel, and fiber supply to enhance national security;
- supporting production of healthy and safe food for consumers;
- expanding and developing domestic markets;
- training the next generation of agriculturalists; and
- fueling innovation to keep American farmers at the forefront of productivity.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is committed to advancing these principles and encourages applicants to actively engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters when applying for funding opportunities to ensure relevancy and adherence to them. NIFA also encourages agricultural leaders to engage in the peer review panel process to ensure American producers are better served through research, education, and extension activities.

Projects submitted under this NOFO should align with [USDA Secretary’s Memorandum 1078-020](#) Directive on Departmental Research and Development Priorities:

1. Increasing Profitability of Farmers and Ranchers
2. Expanding Markets and Creating New Uses of U.S. Agricultural Products
3. Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species
4. Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land
5. Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality

Stakeholder Input. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks comments on all Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible

when developing NOFO, and uses the comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Response to GusNIP NOFO.

FY 2026 UPDATES

1. Clarifies in [Part I, D](#) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Policy that SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card numbers may not be used, collected, possessed, maintained, logged, or tracked, in whole or in part, for any purpose.
2. Clarifies eligible entities are governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.
3. Clarifies that [48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\)](#) applies to the GusNIP.
4. Uniform Guidance has changed the de Minimis Rate to 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) in [Part IV, C](#).
5. Awardees will implement updated core metrics.
6. Consultation with the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Center prior to applying is encouraged for new applications.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This notice identifies the objectives for the GusNIP-Nutrition Incentive Program (NI) projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions. The amount available for grants in FY 2026 is approximately \$36,300,000.

The GusNIP-NI funds and evaluates projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands; and the USDA Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) Block Grants for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands by providing a financial incentive at the point of purchase.

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PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

In accordance with [7 U.S.C. 7517](#), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to administer GusNIP.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The GusNIP-NI, Assistance Listing 10.331, brings together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system to foster understanding of how they might leverage Federal nutrition assistance programs to improve food insecurity, nutrition, and health status of participating households.

Established in the 2018 Farm Bill, the GusNIP portfolio has provided more than \$330,000,000 in funding to nearly 250 projects. The GusNIP portfolio includes three competitive grant programs: (1) the Nutrition Incentive Program (NI); (2) the Produce Prescription Program (PPR); and (3) the National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers Program (NTAE).

The purpose of the GusNIP-NI is to fund and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands; and the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) Block Grants participants in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands by providing incentives at the point of purchase. When the term “SNAP/NAP” is used it means both the SNAP/NAP Block Grants. For further guidance, the terms ‘SNAP’, ‘NAP’, and ‘fruits and vegetables’ are defined in [Appendix III](#).

The GusNIP-NI is designed to support growth through three incremental program areas. These program areas assist eligible organizations to initiate pilot projects, then increase their capacity and scale to propose projects with greater reach, scope, and complexity to standard projects and large-scale projects. These investments support the vision of the GusNIP portfolio whereby federal funds are leveraged to advance local capacity and, over time, other funding sources or business plans are secured for the projects to become self-sustaining.

NIFA encourages applicants to highlight proposed project plans that [strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes](#) and aim to accelerate progress on the President’s [Make America Healthy Again strategy](#). NIFA also encourages proposed project plans that [take innovative approaches to connect America’s farmers to SNAP/NAP participants](#).

All applications submitted in response to this NOFO will be competitively peer reviewed and ranked in accordance with the evaluation criteria in [Part V, B](#). Where proposals are found to be equally meritorious, based on peer review, selection for funding will be weighed in favor of proposals aligning with and advancing the GusNIP-NI purpose and priorities. NIFA reserves the right to evaluate the peer review panel recommendations to ensure balance of award recommendations across lead organization, project director, and geographical distribution.

All GusNIP-NI proposals must:

1. Include a letter of support from applicable [SNAP Implementing Agency\(ies\)](#) or [NAP Territory Agency\(ies\)](#) administering SNAP and NAP, respectively.
2. Aim to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among SNAP/NAP participants by providing fruit and vegetable incentives at the point of purchase.
3. Track the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP participants.
4. Follow the policies, rules, and regulations of the respective food assistance program(s) their nutrition incentive project will partner with.
5. Ensure that the same terms and conditions apply to purchases made by SNAP/NAP participants with incentives provided under the GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program as apply to purchases made by individuals who are not members of households receiving SNAP/NAP benefits as provided in [7 CFR 278.2\(b\)](#).
6. Participate in the GusNIP comprehensive program evaluation, including required project data collection, and sharing of data with the NTAE.

C. Program Area Description

Examples of GusNIP-NI projects include, but are not limited to, innovative strategies to provide fruit and vegetable incentives and increase the redemption rate at the point of purchase at SNAP/NAP authorized retailers, including food stores, market stands, farmers markets, direct-marketing farmers (e.g., Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSAs)), marketing and consumer cooperatives, and other SNAP/NAP authorized retail firms.

The GusNIP-NI will support three program area priorities as follows:

1. GusNIP Pilot Projects (FPP)
2. GusNIP Standard Projects (FIP)
3. GusNIP Large Scale Projects (FLSP)

1. GusNIP Pilot Projects (FPP)

Table 2: GusNIP Pilot Projects (FPP) Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code	FPP
Program Code Name	GusNIP Pilot Projects (FPP)
ALN	10.331
Project Type	Pilot Project
Application Deadline	June 16, 2026
Grant Duration	12 months
Maximum Award Amount	\$100,000

FPP support new pilot projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP participants, by providing incentives at the point of purchase. These differ in their scale from the FIP and FLSP. Pilot projects are for new entrants to the nutrition incentive field to enhance their portfolios and their abilities to create and sustain fruit and vegetable incentive projects. Amounts requested under FPP must be less than or equal to \$100,000. Evaluation criteria for reviewing pilot project proposals are different from those utilized for reviewing standard and large-scale proposals. FPPs must operate through authorized SNAP/NAP retailers and comply with all relevant SNAP/NAP regulations and operating requirements.

Priority for funding under the GusNIP Pilot Projects will be given to applicants who have not received grant funding in the past. This priority does not exclude previous grant recipients from being funded. FPP proposals will be evaluated based on community needs, objectives, activities, and outcomes that are in alignment with the GusNIP-NI purpose and priorities as described in [Part I, B](#). The expectations for pilot projects, however, will be commensurate with their size (e.g., smaller audiences, more limited geographic reach, less complex collaborative arrangements) and provide an opportunity for smaller or less experienced organizations to propose projects that have smaller budgets and less complex administration.

All projects must involve SNAP/NAP participants and a SNAP/NAP purchase. All FPPs must submit a project proposal that includes a self-assessment method of evaluating the success of the program in developing a viable project, such as a process evaluation or formative evaluation. Because GusNIP Pilot Projects are in the earliest stages of development, they are not required to submit a comprehensive program evaluation like the FIP and FSLP projects. FPPs are encouraged to work with the NTAE to include GusNIP comprehensive program evaluation core participant-level and firm-level metrics to be well positioned for future funding opportunities. FPP grantees will be required to provide their self-assessment data to the NTAE. Additional information is provided in [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO.

2. GusNIP Standard Projects (FIP)

Table 3: GusNIP Standard Projects (FIP) Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code	FIP
Program Code Name	GusNIP Standard Projects (FIP)
ALN	10.331
Project Type	Standard Project
Application Deadline	June 16, 2026
Grant Duration	Up to 36 months
Maximum Award Amount	\$500,000

GusNIP Standard Projects (FIP) support the development and evaluation of new and established Tribal, county, district, multi-county, territory, or statewide projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP participants by providing incentives at the point of purchase. These differ in their scale from GusNIP Large-Scale Projects (FLSP) which test strategies to inform future efforts. Amounts requested under FIP must be less than or equal to \$500,000. FIP proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in [Part V, B](#) and the community needs, objectives, activities, and outcomes that are in alignment with the GusNIP-NI purpose and priorities as described in [Part I, B](#) of this NOFO.

Organizations in this category are typically not new to implementing such programs. FIPs do not replace current programming and are required to enhance understanding of project components that contribute to increased purchase and/or consumption of fruits and vegetables and/or expand the breadth, scope, or reach of these programs. FIPs are not in the pilot stages of development and should have established relationships with necessary partners and collaborators. FIPs must operate through authorized SNAP/NAP retailers and comply with all relevant SNAP/NAP

regulations and operating requirements. FIPs must use effective and efficient SNAP/NAP incentive redemption technologies. The expectations for standard projects, however, will be commensurate with their size, and provide an opportunity for smaller or less experienced organizations to propose projects that have smaller budgets and less complex administration.

All FIPs must involve SNAP/NAP participants and a SNAP/NAP purchase. All FIP proposals must include an evaluation of whether the project met its goals and objectives. All FIP grantees will be required to participate in the GusNIP comprehensive program evaluation, collect core participant-level and firm-level metrics, cooperate with, and contribute core participant-level and firm-level data to the NTAE. Additional information is provided in [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO.

FIP proposals must include the vision for achieving a self-sustaining project over time. Project sustainability in the project narrative should describe sustainability in the context of continuing to serve community members. Project financial sustainability should be described in the business plan. Additional information is provided in [Part IV, B](#) of this NOFO.

3. GusNIP Large Scale Projects

Table 4: GusNIP Large Scale Projects (FLSP) Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code	FLSP
Program Code Name	GusNIP Large Scale Projects (FLSP)
ALN	10.331
Project Type	Large Scale Project
Application Deadline	June 16, 2026
Grant Duration	Up to 36 months
Maximum Award Amount:	> \$500,000

GusNIP Large-Scale Projects (FLSP) are designed to create or support large-scale multi-county, territory, statewide, Tribal Nation, and regional incentive programs that increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP participants by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Projects will test strategies to inform future efforts. Amounts requested under FLSP must be greater than \$500,000. FLSP proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in [Part V, B](#) and the community needs, objectives, activities, and outcomes that are in alignment with the GusNIP-NI purpose and priorities as described in [Part I, B](#) of this NOFO.

Organizations in this category are typically not new to implementing such programs. FLSPs do not replace current programming and are required to enhance understanding of project components that increase purchase and/or consumption of fruits and vegetables and/or expand the breadth, scope, or reach of these programs. FSLPs are not in the pilot stages of development and should have established relationships with necessary partners and collaborators. FLSPs must not only use effective and efficient incentive redemption technologies but test innovative outreach and promotion strategies to increase fruit and vegetable purchases and/or consumption. FSLPs must operate through authorized SNAP/NAP retailers and comply with all relevant SNAP/NAP regulations and operating requirements. The expectations for large-scale projects, however, will be commensurate with their size.

All FSLPs must involve SNAP/NAP participants and a SNAP/NAP purchase. All FSLP proposals must include an evaluation of whether the project met its goals and objectives. All FLSP grantees will be required to participate in the GusNIP comprehensive program evaluation, collect core participant-level and firm-level metrics, cooperate with, and contribute core participant-level and firm-level data to the NTAE. A higher level of rigor will be expected for the FLSP evaluation plans.

All FLSP proposals must include the vision for achieving a self-sustaining project over time. Project sustainability in the project narrative should describe sustainability in the context of continuing to serve community members. Project financial sustainability should be described in the business plan. Additional information is provided in [Part IV, B](#) of this NOFO. A higher level of rigor will be expected for the FLSP community service and financial sustainability plans.

D. Program Policy

This section deals with certain aspects of SNAP/NAP policies as they pertain to the GusNIP-NI. This section also deals with policies regarding the participation of SNAP/NAP authorized retailers or firms (e.g., convenience stores, grocery stores, farmers markets, direct-marketing farmers) participating in NI projects. For SNAP, “Firm” is defined at [7 CFR 271.2](#). SNAP and NAP are distinct food assistance programs with their own program rules and regulations. Applications must follow the policies of the respective food assistance program(s) their nutrition incentive project will partner with. Questions regarding the policies discussed below may be directed to sm.fn.GusNIP@usda.gov.

1. Definition of Incentive

The term “incentive” means any financial encouragement that would increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP participants.

- a. Examples of allowable financial incentives include, but are not limited to, coupons or gift cards.
- b. Examples of unallowable incentives include, but are not limited to, giveaways of non-food items, such as appliances, cooking utensils, lottery or raffle tickets. Gift cards are unallowable for use as incentives if the gift card can be used for any non-SNAP/NAP item.

The cost of incentives and supplies, such as reinforcement items and educational extenders (e.g., cooking utensils to prepare fruits and vegetables for consumption), must be allowable under the applicable cost principles in [2 CFR part 200, Subpart E](#).

Unallowable incentives and supplies may not be paid for with either Federal or matching funds.

2. Definition of Fruits and Vegetables

The definition of fruits and vegetables for the GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program includes any variety of frozen, canned, dried, or fresh; whole or cut fruits and vegetables; without added sugars, fats, oils, and salt (i.e., sodium). If any of these items are a listed ingredient, then that product is generally not considered a fruit or vegetable. SNAP/NAP eligible seeds and plants intended for cultivation and consumption (e.g., tomato seeds or tomato plants) and fresh herbs (e.g., fresh basil, thyme, or mint) are also considered fruits and vegetables. Applicants are encouraged to utilize a variety of locally and regionally produced fruits and vegetables.

Examples of fruit-based and vegetable-based products that do not qualify for the purposes of the GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program include [accessory food](#) and beverage items such as powdered, dried, or extracted herbs and spices, fruit punch (less than 100% fruit juice), honey, ketchup, and other condiments, as well as multiple ingredient food items that are not primarily composed of fruits and vegetables (e.g., pastries containing fruit, frozen pizza pies, burritos, or fry bread). For more information about accessory foods, please visit https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/Accessory_Foods_List.pdf. If you are uncertain as to whether a fruit or vegetable product qualifies for the purposes of the GusNIP-NI, please check the ingredients panel. If sugars, fats, oils, or salts are present as a listed ingredient on the product's nutrition label, then that product is generally not considered a fruit or vegetable.

3. SNAP/NAP Eligible Foods

SNAP Eligible Foods encompass almost any food or beverage item without restrictions on specific ingredients. Please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items> for more information about what foods may be purchased with SNAP benefits.

Eligible Foods for each NAP block grant differ from SNAP. Consult the respective NAP-administrating agency for the most up-to-date information. Administrating agencies for NAP block grant programs include:

- a) The Administration for the Socio-Economic Development of the Family, Department of Family Affairs in Puerto Rico, [Nutritional assistance program](https://www.fns.usda.gov/nap/nutrition-assistance-program-block-grants#PR). <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nap/nutrition-assistance-program-block-grants#PR>
- b) The American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services in the Territory of American Samoa, <http://dhss.as/index.html>; and
- c) The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, <https://dcca.gov.mp/nap-nutrition-assistance-program/>.

4. Incentive Models

The GusNIP-NI allows incentives to be earned when a SNAP/NAP participant purchases fruits and vegetables, or a SNAP/NAP eligible food. The GusNIP-NI allows the use of incentives for qualifying fruits and vegetables, or a SNAP/NAP eligible food. A purchase is required, thus a “no purchase required” mechanism and nonfinancial incentives are not allowable.

The three allowable incentive models are as follows:

- a. Fruits and vegetables for fruits and vegetables: SNAP/NAP participants purchase fruits or vegetables using their SNAP/NAP benefits and then receive incentives that are redeemable only for the purchase of fruits or vegetables.
- b. Any SNAP/NAP eligible food for fruits and vegetables: SNAP/NAP participants purchase any SNAP/NAP eligible food using their SNAP/NAP benefits and then receive incentives that are redeemable only for the purchase of fruits or vegetables.
- c. Fruits and vegetables for any SNAP/NAP eligible food: SNAP/NAP participants purchase fruits or vegetables using their SNAP/NAP benefits and then receive incentives that are redeemable for the purchase of any SNAP/NAP eligible food.

A GusNIP-NI project must incentivize the purchase of fruits and vegetables. See [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO for the definition of Fruits and Vegetables.

GusNIP-NI applicants may choose to only incentivize a narrower subset of the fruit or vegetable category (e.g., incentivize only local fruit, traditional subsistence fruits and vegetables, or wild edible and medicinal plants). For example, some applicants have chosen to incentivize the fruits and vegetables that appear on their State's Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Approved Products List (APL). This is an acceptable subset of fruits and vegetables to incentivize. However, some States' WIC APLs may exclude products that would otherwise be considered fruits and vegetables (e.g., white potatoes). Some GusNIP-NI applicants have, nevertheless, opted to incentivize only fruits and vegetables that appear on their States' WIC APLs as this simplifies implementation with their participating firms. GusNIP-NI applicants that seek to incentivize only a narrower subset of the fruit or vegetable category must justify their approach in their proposal.

Applicants may not incentivize only specific brand names or product lines of fruits or vegetables, or only a specific subset of fruits or vegetables that are not considered by USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and NIFA to advance the spirit or purpose of the GusNIP-NI .

Applicants may structure fruit and vegetable incentive models as two separate transactions, during the first transaction the SNAP/NAP participant earns the incentive and during the second transaction the SNAP/NAP participant redeems their incentive. Applicants also have the flexibility to structure the fruit and vegetable incentive model as a single transaction where earning and redemption both take place in one transaction and the SNAP/NAP participant experiences a discount.

5. SNAP/NAP Authorized Retailer (Firm) Requirements.

Sales Tax. In accordance with [7 U.S.C. 7517\(d\)\(2\)](#), each state shall ensure that no state or local tax is collected on a purchase of food using GusNIP grant incentives. Applicants must work with the state/territory(ies) to ensure that no state/territory or local tax is collected on a purchase of food with assistance provided under GusNIP-NI projects. See also [Food and Nutrition Act of 2008](#) Section 4(a).

The value of any benefit provided to a participant will be treated as supplemental nutrition benefits under section 8(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ([7 U.S.C. 2017 \(b\)](#)). Therefore, the value of GusNIP incentives cannot be considered as income; including under laws relating to taxation, welfare, and public assistance programs.

GusNIP-NI projects cannot be used to carry out any project that limits the use of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ([7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.](#)) or any other federal nutrition law.

Assistance provided under GusNIP-NI projects to households receiving benefits under SNAP/NAP must not:

- a. be considered part of the supplemental nutrition benefits of the household; or
- b. be used in the collection or disposition of claims under section 13 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ([7 U.S.C. 2022](#)).

Equal Treatment. Because the statutory language of the 2018 Farm Bill requires GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program projects to provide incentives specifically to SNAP/NAP participants, the equal treatment provision of [7 CFR § 278.2\(b\)](#) and [7 CFR § 274.7\(f\)](#) does not apply to GusNIP-NI projects for the purpose of providing incentives under the grant. However, if a firm wishes to provide any other type of incentive, outside of the GusNIP-NI scope, or some kind of special treatment to only SNAP participants, the firm must first request an equal treatment waiver from FNS. For more information, visit the [SNAP Incentive Waiver Request](#) web page, or seek assistance from the NTAE.

SNAP EBT Cards and NAP Paper Coupons. SNAP [Electronic Benefits Transfer](#) (EBT) cards, Puerto Rico NAP EBT cards, and American Samoa NAP and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NAP numerically serialized paper coupons are issued by the individual state/territory SNAP/NAP agencies. Under federal SNAP/NAP rules, neither EBT cards nor NAP paper coupons may be altered in any way. Therefore, applicants and their partner firms may not place barcodes, retailer logos, or reward program stickers on EBT cards or coupons. Such items could be interpreted as showing federal, state or territory affiliation, preference or endorsement of certain goods, services or retailers.

To improve and expand EBT recipient fraud prevention, no SNAP EBT card number in whole or in part is permitted to be used, collected, possessed, maintained, logged or tracked for any purpose.

EBT cards may contain both cash and SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP benefit accounts; therefore an “EBT” transaction does not always signify a SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP transaction.

Nutrition Incentive project proposals must clearly indicate how a partner firm will identify SNAP/NAP transactions for purposes of earning a fruit and vegetable incentive.

Refunds. Refund policies differ between SNAP and NAP Programs. Applicants must adhere to the refund policy issued by the individual State/Territory SNAP/NAP Agency.

Specific to SNAP, cash refunds are prohibited for any product purchased with SNAP benefits. Providing cash refunds for SNAP scrip (paper, tokens, or receipts) or items purchased with SNAP benefits is considered trafficking SNAP benefits. This is a serious violation of SNAP rules and can have lasting legal ramifications for any firm engaging in such practices. Refunds of SNAP scrip and purchases made with SNAP benefits must be returned to the SNAP household’s EBT SNAP account through a refund transaction on the point-of-sale (POS) device.

SNAP and Puerto Rico NAP authorized firms should have the same refund policy for SNAP participants as they do for other customers except that cash refunds must never be

provided for items purchased with SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP benefits. Instead, SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP refunds should be returned onto the customer's EBT card. Because a SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP purchase is required in order to earn a nutrition incentive, proposals must describe how refunds for SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP benefits used to earn incentives will be monitored so that SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP customers are not able to obtain a refund for the SNAP/ Puerto Rico NAP purchase but keep the incentives earned from that purchase.

Incentives must never be exchanged for cash or other nonqualifying items. Furthermore, the value of the incentives must never be returned onto the customer's EBT card.

Spoiled or undesired food products purchased with nutrition incentives may be exchanged for the equivalent food products or other eligible products of the same value at the firm's discretion and/or based on their return policies for all customers.

Specific to American Samoa NAP and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NAP, there is no refund policy with paper coupons.

Farmers Market Scrips. Farmers Markets (FM) with one central [Electronic Benefits Transfer](#) (EBT) point-of-sale (POS) terminal often utilize scrip (paper, tokens, or receipts) for the redemption of SNAP benefits. Under such a system, SNAP participants swipe their EBT cards at the FM's central EBT POS terminal for a declared amount and receive specially marked tokens which can only be spent on specified food at the FM's stalls and booths. If, after shopping, SNAP participants have unused scrips remaining, they must be able to return to the FM's central EBT POS terminal for a refund back to the SNAP participant's EBT SNAP account either the same or subsequent day. For more information visit [SNAP Scrip Systems](#).

Nutrition Incentive Program proposals using a FM scrip system must use a GusNIP fruit and vegetable incentive scrip distinct from scrip that can be used to purchase any SNAP eligible food, regardless of the incentive model selected. FM scrips may only be redeemed as intended at the FM; the value of unused scrips may not be returned onto the SNAP participant's EBT SNAP account. Unused scrip can never be exchanged for cash, other scrip, or other items. Proposals must describe the process by which unused scrip purchased with SNAP benefits to earn the GusNIP incentive scrip can be returned without allowing SNAP participants to be able to retain the incentives without making the required upfront SNAP purchase.

Example: A SNAP participant purchases \$5 worth of tokens with SNAP benefits to receive \$5 (dollar for dollar) worth of GusNIP incentive tokens. Later the SNAP customer wants to return \$2 worth of the SNAP tokens but already spent all \$5 worth of the incentive tokens, which would result in the customer effectively only making a \$3 SNAP purchase but still receiving \$5 worth of incentives.

Spoiled or undesired food products purchased with GusNIP incentives may be exchanged for the equivalent food products or other eligible products of the same value at the firm's discretion.

Specific to American Samoa NAP and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NAP, there is no exchange of paper coupons for Farmers Market Scrip. Puerto Rico NAP participants can purchase fresh agricultural products at Family Market venues with NAP benefits through the EBT card.

SNAP benefits may not be converted to e-tokens or any other type of currency not specifically approved under the scrip demonstration waiver. That waiver is only for Farmers Markets and only for physical scrip/tokens or receipts returned to the vendor after an EBT transaction. Any proposals using e-tokens or other electronic delivery methods for the incentives should provide a detailed description of the process, including the type of equipment needed by both vendors and customers, refund processes specific to e-tokens, and information about the technology provider.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs). CSAs are an allowable business model for both non-profit and for-profit farmers markets and direct-marketing farmers. CSAs may not accept payment from SNAP/NAP participants more than 14 days before food delivery or pickup.

SNAP/NAP Firm Data Confidentiality. Under [7 CFR § 278.1\(q\)](#), certain forms of SNAP/NAP firm information are prohibited from disclosure. [Local and State SNAP Agencies](#) may not disclose such firm data to GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program applicants. The names and addresses of SNAP/NAP authorized firms are available to the public and can be obtained via the SNAP/NAP [Retailer Locator](#) map.

However, the FNS number for individual firms is not public information and is subject to restrictions in SNAP/NAP regulations at [7 CFR § 278.1\(q\)](#); therefore, it must be obtained directly from the firm. Likewise, SNAP/NAP redemption or transaction data at the individual firm-level is considered protected data and must be obtained directly from the firm. GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program applicants should work in close concert with their participating firm to obtain any such required information. Both the FNS number and individual firm transaction/redemption data, while necessary for data collection and evaluation purposes, are protected and must not be published in a public report. Only aggregated SNAP/NAP firm transaction/redemption data may be reported.

Whenever transmitting any confidential SNAP/NAP firm data to FNS or NIFA, this data must be password protected.

Allowable Participation of Firms in the Project. It is required to partner with firms to conduct a nutrition incentive project. Types of SNAP/NAP firms include grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, and direct-marketing farmers (CSAs and farm stands). Before a firm can participate in a GusNIP-NI project, the applicant/grantee organization must confirm the firm is authorized.

The names and addresses of SNAP authorized firms are available to the public and can be obtained via the SNAP [Retailer Locator](#) map. If the firm is on the map, that means the firm is authorized. The map is updated every two weeks. Once the applicant/grantee organization has confirmed that the firm is SNAP authorized, the grantee may move

forward with the firm's participation. Information on the eligibility requirement and process for SNAP authorization can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply-to-accept>.

For any questions regarding the status of a firm's SNAP authorization, the firm's owner should contact the SNAP Retailer Service Center at **1-877-823-4369**.

Specific to NAP, approved firms in the territories of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are issued an Authorization Card by the NAP Retail and Redemption Officer. Firms in Puerto Rico are authorized through the Departamento de la Familia. A list of PAN certified firms can be found at:

<https://serviciosonline.adsef.pr.gov/>

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SNAP/NAP Firm. Before a firm can participate in a GusNIP-NI project, the applicant/grantee organization and the partner firm must execute a signed MOU. The MOU provides grantees with a means to ensure that partner firms understand their role and responsibilities and to hold firms accountable for following GusNIP policy and SNAP/NAP rules and regulations. If the grantee is working with a chain of centrally owned and operated firms, then one MOU that includes all relevant information on every participating firm location will be sufficient. The applicant/grantee organization should keep the original MOU in their records and be able to present it in the event of an audit. The NTAE is available to provide applicants/grantees with assistance in developing the terms and conditions of the MOU.

Updating SNAP Retailer Partners. On a monthly basis throughout the period of performance of the award, awarded grantees will be responsible for submitting a password protected list of new SNAP partner firms participating under the grantee's Nutrition Incentive Program project to FNS. The list must contain the following information for the participating SNAP firm:

- 1) Organization name,
- 2) Nutrition Incentive Program award number,
- 3) Firm FNS number,
- 4) Firm name,
- 5) Firm address, and
- 6) Approximate start/end dates of the firm's participation

Specific instructions on how to provide this information to FNS will be provided to grantees upon award.

SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. On April 18, 2019, FNS launched an Online Purchasing Pilot (OPP) to test the possibility of allowing retailers to accept SNAP benefits through online transactions. If an applicant wishes to offer GusNIP incentives through online purchases, their partnering firm(s) must be participating in the SNAP OPP. Applicants who are interested in learning more should visit [SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot](#) or reach out to the NTAE for additional guidance.

GusNIP-NI proposals involving online purchasing must include a detailed description of how the process will work from the perspective of the SNAP household and the retailer.

Online Ordering. Online ordering, which is different from online purchasing, involves a SNAP/NAP participant placing an order online or over the phone, but paying for the purchase at the time of pick-up or delivery. Retailers should never accept payment by obtaining a clients' EBT card number and PIN or coupon number over the phone. Additionally, SNAP/NAP benefits cannot be used to pay for delivery fees; retailers that charge delivery fees must accept delivery fee payments via another form of tender.

GusNIP-NI proposals involving online ordering must include a detailed description of how the process will work from the perspective of the SNAP/NAP household and the retailer.

NAP Puerto Rico offers Purchases Online. Through Purchases Online NAP Puerto Rico participants may select their groceries through approved food retailers' online sites, then complete the payment transaction at the retailer's store when they pick up their food.

Grantee Noncompliance with Program Policy. Grantees and their participating firms are expected to comply with all of the policies and requirements laid out in this NOFO as well as any GusNIP or SNAP/NAP policies or requirements further clarified in Q&As, memoranda, or other relevant USDA documents (including all applicable provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and SNAP regulations at [7 CFR 278](#)). The NTAE technical assistance team, program advisors, and reporting advisors are available to guide applicants and grantees, in addition to NIFA program staff and grants management staff, to avoid instances of noncompliance. Grantees will be notified in writing of instances of noncompliance and will face serious repercussions for repeated instances of noncompliance.

Examples of such noncompliance include, but are not limited to, failure to provide required evaluation data to the NTAE, allowing unapproved firms to participate in a project, and/or incentivizing ineligible products or exchanging incentives for cash. A history of noncompliance with GusNIP or any other USDA grant policies and requirements will be considered during the grant application evaluation process as detailed in [Part V, B](#), Evaluation Criteria.

Partner Firm Training and Outreach Plan. GusNIP-NI projects succeed best when firm employees are well-trained and involved as stakeholders in the project. Grant proposals must include a detailed partner firm training plan, which describes how and when partner firms and their employees will be trained prior to implementing a nutrition incentive project at a particular firm location. At a minimum, the training plan should ensure that firms and their employees understand: 1) the GusNIP incentive model issuance and redemption process; 2) the allowable foods; and 3) where SNAP/NAP participants should be directed to if they have questions.

6. Allowable Forms of Project Outreach and Promotion.

Participant Outreach. GusNIP-NI projects cannot succeed in reaching SNAP/NAP participants without some form of project promotion, outreach, or advertising. Grant proposals must include a detailed SNAP/NAP participant outreach plan. At a minimum, the plan should address how SNAP/NAP participants will be informed of 1) the fruit and vegetable incentive project and how it works; 2) when and where the project will be implemented; 3) how they can participate in the project; 4) the allowable foods; and 5) where they can get additional information.

If the corresponding state/territory SNAP/NAP agency will be involved in this outreach plan, the required Letter of Support from the state/territory must make mention of their involvement and the extent to which they will provide support.

Grantees may promote or advertise their nutrition incentive projects using Federal and/or match funds using any mass media (e.g., television, radio, billboards, and geographically focused online social media advertisements). Such mass media advertisement will only be allowable as described under [2 CFR 200.421](#). Regardless of format, promotional activities funded with Federal and/or match funds:

- a. Must present factual statements intended to inform, not to persuade or make an emotional appeal;
- b. May include locational information about firms (i.e., the address of firms participating in the grantee's project);
- c. May also specify that firms accept SNAP/NAP and EBT/NAP paper coupons (this includes appropriate logo use. More information regarding the use of the SNAP logo can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/logo-guidance>); and
- d. May include information describing the mechanics of the grantee's project (e.g., spend \$1 on fruits or vegetables and earn \$1 to spend on more fruits or vegetables).

Under no circumstances may grantees engage in any activities intended to persuade or recruit individuals to apply for SNAP/NAP benefits. The use of GusNIP Federal and/or match funds to encourage or assist individuals in applying for or obtaining SNAP/NAP benefits is strictly prohibited.

State/Territory Flexibilities in Project Promotion. Only state/territory SNAP/NAP agencies are permitted to contact SNAP/NAP participants using the contact information state/territory agencies collect for SNAP/NAP participation. This is protected information and thus cannot be provided to applicants/grantees even under an MOU. State/territory SNAP/NAP agencies are strongly encouraged to assist GusNIP-NI grantees in their area. State/territory SNAP/NAP agencies can help by promoting incentives to SNAP/NAP households. For example, GusNIP promotional material may inform SNAP/NAP recipients on how fruit and vegetable incentives work, the location of participating firms, and where to get additional information.

Examples of allowable promotional activities include:

- a. Making nutrition incentive project promotional materials available at local SNAP/NAP offices;
- b. Allowing promotional videos to be played at local SNAP/NAP offices; or

- c. The state/territory agency sending grantees' promotional materials through direct mail to area SNAP/NAP participants.

State/Territory Letter of Support. Applicants must submit a Letter of Support from applicable SNAP/NAP state/territory agency as part of their grant application. This letter must explain the specific role of the agency, including any activities the agency is expected to conduct in support of the project, such as identifying SNAP/NAP participants and/or sending them any correspondence related to the project. The letter must also identify any state/territory agency systems, including EBT systems, required to implement the proposed project along with an acknowledgment of who will bear the costs associated with any activities or system changes if applicable.

7. Consultation with the GusNIP National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Center is encouraged for new applications

New applicants are encouraged to have a consultation session of approximately one hour with the GusNIP NTAE for free group sessions or one-on-one support to review common mistakes. To document completion of this consultation, all new applicants are encouraged to upload the verification letter from the GusNIP NTAE to Field 12 of their application. See [Part IV, B](#) for more information. Consultation for applicants resubmitting an application is optional.

8. Required Comprehensive GusNIP Program Evaluation and Evaluation Reporting.

The evaluation is based on a cluster evaluation model that builds on the collaboration and coordination of individual project assessments and an overall program evaluation. It consists of four components: a process analysis to describe project implementation and support future replication of successful approaches; an outcome analysis to assess the effectiveness of each FIP and FLSP grantee project; a comparative analysis to integrate results across sites and approaches, attempting to answer the question of what works best (and when or where); and technical assistance to support consistent implementation of evaluation protocols used by grantees/researchers/evaluators.

All FPP, FIP, and FLSP grantees will be required to cooperate with the NTAE by:

- a. Supporting implementation of evaluation requirements;
- b. Meeting periodically with staff from NIFA, FNS, the NTAE, and other GusNIP grantees to review project plans, evaluation objectives and methods, data collection and reporting requirements, and analysis and reporting of results;
- c. Facilitating access to or providing documentation of project implementation, operations, costs, and outcomes; and
- d. Facilitating site visits and interviews with project staff, partners, and program participants if necessary.

FIP and FLSP grantees will be required to periodically provide the NTAE a core program data set to ensure common program tracking and enable meaningful comparisons across all projects. A defined number of cross-sectional (i.e., single time point) surveys are required to be collected from this subsample for each active grant year of a grantee's project. For additional information on the core program data set firm-level and

participant-level metrics, visit the [GusNIP Application Resources](#) page. Post-award, the NTAE will work with each grantee on an individual basis to determine the sample size and sampling plan. For additional information on the core program data set firm-level and participant-level metrics, visit the [GusNIP Application Resources](#) page.

To provide data for the core metrics, grantees are required to have a Data Use Agreement or a MOU with each firm or sub-grantee that guarantees each firm will provide information required for the core firm-level and participant-level data sets, complete an outlet survey of firms, and provide these data to the NTAE.

Table 5: Comprehensive GusNIP Program Evaluation Table

PROGRAM AREA CODE	PROJECT EVALUATION	COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION
FPP	Process evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required to participate. 2. Participation includes conducting a project self-assessment and providing self-assessment data to the NTAE.
FIP	Process & outcome evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required to participate. 2. Collect minimum core data set. 3. Collaborate with the NTAE. 4. Contribute minimum core data set to the NTAE.
FLSP	Process & outcome evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required to participate. 2. Collect minimum core data set. 3. Collaborate with the NTAE. 4. Contribute minimum core data set to the NTAE.

9. SNAP/NAP Policy Analyst

GusNIP-NI grant applications will be reviewed by a USDA Food and Nutrition Service SNAP/NAP Policy Analyst for adherence to SNAP/NAP program rules and regulations. Final award determination is subject to Food and Nutrition Service approval of a grant application's adherence to SNAP/NAP program rules and regulations.

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for NIFA to support this program is approximately \$36,300,000 in FY 2026. The funds will be awarded through grants. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

The [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#), operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this NOFO.

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO.

Applications for FY 2026 are limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO and are subject to the due dates herein (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).
2. *Resubmitted application*: Resubmitted applications must include the response to the previous review panel summary and are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. Resubmitted applicants must enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously submitted application in the *Federal Field (Field 4)* on the SF-424 (R&R) form (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).

C. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects

In accordance with sections [2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422](#), institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award, that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients must, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#) for further information.

NIFA recognizes that data sharing may be complicated or limited, in some cases, by organizational policies; local and Tribal Institutional Review Board (IRB) rules; and local, Tribal, state, and federal laws and regulations. The rights and privacy of individuals who participate in NIFA-funded research must be protected at all times. This includes human subject's assurance statements that the project has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or determined exempt from review. Please review [IRB](#) requirements for the 2018 changes and updates. Data intended for broader use should be free of identifiers that would permit linkages to individual research participants and variables that could lead to deductive disclosure of the identity of individual subjects.

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the GusNIP-NI must meet all the requirements discussed in this NOFO. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline may result in exclusion from consideration or, preclude NIFA from making an award. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's [About Grants](#) provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

1. Eligible Entity

Eligibility to apply for a GusNIP-NI grant is limited to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations.

2. Partners and Collaborators

Applicants for GusNIP grants may seek and create partnerships with public or private, nonprofit or for-profit entities, including links with academic institutions (including Tribal colleges and universities) and/or other non-government entities; and/or partnering entities for the purposes of providing additional resources .

GusNIP-NI applicants may partner with or make subgrants to public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities; including an emergency feeding organization, an agricultural cooperative, a producer network or association, a community health organization, a public benefit corporation, an economic development corporation, a farmers market, a community-supported agriculture program, a buying club, a retail food store participating in SNAP/NAP, and a Tribal, state, territory, or local agency. Subgrants are subject to NIFA approval.

Only the applicant must meet the requirements specified above for grant eligibility. When planning partnerships and collaborations, applicants may subaward to organizations not eligible to apply directly to the GusNIP-NI provided such organizations are necessary for the successful completion of the project, will complete and maintain active registration with [SAM](#), and are otherwise eligible to receive federal assistance awards. All organizations not eligible to receive a federal award are listed in SAM with the Exclusion Type. [See SAM Exclusion Types](#). See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO for the subaward funding restriction.

Fiscal Agent. If a nonprofit organization cannot accept federal funds directly, a letter must be included in the application stating that in the event the application results in an award, the award funds must be administered through a fiscal agent organization on its behalf. This agent must be identified in the letter from the applicant and the letter must be countersigned by an authorized representative of the fiscal agent organization. The letter must include the fiscal agent's point of contact, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. This letter is to be included as an attachment to Field 12, Other Attachments (See [Part IV, B](#) of this NOFO) of the application. In the event an application is recommended for funding, NIFA will request that both the applicant institution/organization and the fiscal agent organization submit complete management information (see [Part V, C](#) of this NOFO). Include documents showing the applicant organization's nonprofit status when responding to this request. **USDA will not**

accept applications for grants and cooperative agreements for dangerous gain-of-function research, as defined in [Section 8 of E.O. 14292](#).

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – Limit one submission per eligible entity. An entity is an autonomous organization. Organizations with a hierarchical structure of multiple locations/offices grouped under the authority of a larger system/main office may submit one application from the autonomous system/main office. For academic institutions, this is defined as the Higher Education Directory System Office, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703-532-2300).

Applicants seeking to increase reach and scale should consider partnering and collaborating on a single multi-county, territory, statewide, Tribal Nation, or regional grant application.

Duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will accept the last application received and disqualify previously submitted applications if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions meeting the application deadline.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Match Required – Applicants **MUST** provide matching contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds awarded under the GusNIP-NI ([7 U.S.C. 7517\(b\)\(1\)](#)) as amended. Matching funds, also known as the nonfederal share, must be documented for all project years at the time the application is submitted in the R&R Budget and SF-424 forms (See [Part IV, B](#)). GusNIP-NI applications to the FPP, FIP, and FLSP program area priorities may meet the match requirement through cash and/or in-kind contributions, including third-party in-kind contributions fairly evaluated (including facilities, equipment, or services).

Tribal agency applicants may use funds provided to the Indian Tribe or the Tribal agency through a federal agency (including the Indian Health Service) or other federal benefit to satisfy all or part of the nonfederal share described if such use is otherwise consistent with the purpose of such funds. Examples may include funds provided through the [Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program](#), the [Tribal Colleges Extension Program](#), or the [Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program](#).

For eligible organizations in American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia; the matching requirement of \$200,000 or less shall be waived ([48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\)](#)). Any matching requirement above \$200,000 must be included in the grant application. See [GusNIP – Nutrition Incentive Program Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The nonfederal share of the funding may come from Tribal government, state government, territory government, local government, or private sources. Federal money cannot be used to match except for Tribal agencies.

Matching contributions must also be verifiable from records, not already included as a contribution to any other federal award, and be directly related to, necessary, and reasonable to accomplish the project. Examples of qualifying matching contributions must be for direct costs

such as: rent for office space used exclusively for the funded project; lands where a farmers market is to be held; copying or postage costs; and staff time from an entity other than the applicant for job training or nutrition education. Note that if an applicant partners with a for-profit entity, the nonfederal share that is required to be provided by the applicant may not include the services of an employee of that for-profit entity, including salaries or expenses covered by that employer ([7 U.S.C. 7517 \(b\)\(1\)\(D\)\(ii\)](#)).

SNAP/NAP state/territory agencies pay for 50 percent of the administration of SNAP/NAP and the federal government pays for the other 50 percent. This 50 percent state SNAP/NAP administration cost cannot be used as matching funds for a GusNIP-NI project.

Applicants must include, in the budget justification, attestation of nonprofit status for partners and collaborators services, salaries, and expenses.

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this NOFO electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this NOFO and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). **Table 6** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process. [The NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 6: Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application (Register Here).
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-FINI-011905 , search for application here: Opportunity Package .
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization’s readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 7: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Self-service customer-based support: Grants.gov iPortal Key Information: Customer service business Hours 24/7, except federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Key Information: Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 7a.m. – 5p.m. ET, except federal holidays

B. Content and Form of the Application

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is part of the corresponding application package for this NOFO. The NOFO overrides the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA’s review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 8** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 8: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the NIFA Grants Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part IV
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 30 days of the application deadline.	N/A

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for the required certifications and assurances. Applicants are encouraged to list separate individuals as the Project Director and Authorized Representative, and ensure information is included for both, including email, address, and phone number.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

For GusNIP FPP program area priority applications:

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the GusNIP-NI. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates.
2. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).** The PN for FPP program area priority applications may not exceed 10 pages, 1.5 spaced including written text, figures, and tables with 1-inch margins. The font size for text and tables should be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman. The page limits outlined here ensure fair competition. Organizing the proposal, clearly labeling each section, and sequencing them as indicated below, will help reviewers find the information to evaluate the proposal. Applications exceeding these limits may be administratively declined without review. The PN must include all of the following:

- a. **Introduction to Community(ies) to be involved in the Project and the Benefit to the Community(ies).** Identify and succinctly describe the critical elements and needs of the local food economy or food system; including demographics, income, and geographic characteristics of the area or community(ies) to be served. Beyond a recitation of statistics, applications should describe local capabilities and assets, such as those identified in a community food assessment, and the involvement of community members in the context of project activities and operations, such as human centered design or community advisory board.

Justify the need for the pilot program by noting the SNAP/NAP participants or beneficiaries of the project, the community/health needs and opportunities being addressed, and how they should all directly relate to project goals and the objectives. Describe how the community(ies) will benefit from a Nutrition Incentive project.

- b. **Personnel and Resources of the Organizations and Communities Involved in the Project.** List the organizations and communities to be involved in carrying out the proposed project. Include a summary description of the relevant previous work and experience of each community group, organization, or SNAP/NAP Implementing Agency listed, including the applicant organization that will be involved, and any related project history. It is very important to have partner(s) who have knowledge and experience working with the intended audience(s), are members of the community(ies) the project serves, and that such partner(s) be involved in the leadership of the project. Proposals should demonstrate community linkages and coalitions as appropriate.

The qualifications of staff involved with the proposed project and/or organizational leadership should reflect the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed project activities or similar types of activities. Specify the degree to which paid and volunteer staff will be utilized. Experience in, and connections with, the community will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials in this regard.

Where possible, ensure that residents are involved in planning; in particular, describe how the communities being served (particularly the SNAP/NAP participants, residents, and organizations) have been or will be involved in planning the project and will be engaged in its implementation and evaluation processes. Please reference planning activities, assessments, meetings, or other activities that demonstrate community input into key decision-making.

- c. **Project Goals, Intended Outcomes, and Relationship to GusNIP-NI Purpose and Priorities.** Concisely present the goals, associated objectives, and expected outputs and outcomes of the project in relation to the needs identified in the introduction and how the pilot project will contribute to the purpose and priorities of the GusNIP-NI as described in [Part I, B](#) of this NOFO. Discuss the specific changes intended among SNAP/NAP participants, such as the numbers served and the anticipated knowledge gains or actions (e.g., increased consumption of fruits and vegetables).

Outcomes should describe specific changes in knowledge, action, or condition that will occur because of the project and that will constitute “success” for the initiative. Outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

- d. **Activities to Achieve the Goals.** The activities proposed to achieve each objective must be clearly stated. Discuss how the proposed project outcomes will be realized by providing a systematic description of how the most important steps or milestones will be accomplished.

In addition to these descriptions, it is recommended that a table be provided with implementation details for these activities, including: (a) specific steps and achievements in planning, implementing, and evaluating; (b) timetables for milestones; and, as relevant, (c) expected numbers of SNAP/NAP participants involved in each step of the process. Most relevant is an explanation of why the applicant and its partners selected the activities proposed in the application.

- e. **Project Evaluation.** Describe the method(s) of evaluating success developing a viable fruit and vegetable incentive project, such as process evaluation or formative evaluation. This should include, but is not limited to, monitoring process, challenges, and successes of developing, implementing, and operating a viable project. Because FPP are in the earliest stages of development, they are not required to submit a comprehensive program evaluation like the FIP and FSLP projects.

Applicants should discuss any opportunities and challenges with the GusNIP Comprehensive Program Evaluation requirements described in [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO and how they will be addressed to meet requirements. FPP applicants are encouraged to work with the NTAE to include GusNIP comprehensive program evaluation core participant-level and firm-level metrics to be well positioned for future funding opportunities.

Proposals should also describe any previous process, outcome, and impact evaluation experience with SNAP/NAP participants or other related food programs. The proposal should demonstrate the capacity and willingness to comply with the evaluation requirements. FPP grantees will be required to provide their self-assessment data to the NTAE.

- f. **Non-supplantation.** Proposals must be for projects that will supplement, not replace, nonfederal funds that would otherwise be available to support incentive program activities. Applications must be for: 1) new projects, 2) expanding existing projects, or 3) enhancing existing projects. They may not be used to replace state/territory or local funds that would, in the absence of federal aid, be available or forthcoming for incentive programs. In the case of applications that will expand or enhance existing projects, this section must clearly describe lessons learned, what can be improved, and how those lessons and improvements are being incorporated into the current application to ensure an effective and successful project.

- g. **Response to Previous Review (if applicable).** This requirement only applies to Resubmitted Applications as described in [Part II, B](#) of the NOFO. The response to previous review must not exceed 1 page, 1.5 spaced with 1-inch margins. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman. This does not count towards the page limit for the PN.
- h. **Specific Program and Incentive Information.** Include the following information as a discrete section of the narrative to clearly communicate how the project will operate through authorized SNAP/NAP retailers and comply with applicable SNAP/NAP regulations and operating requirements. Do not reference other sections or charts located elsewhere in the proposal. Projects that incorporate multiple firm types or incentive models must describe each firm type and/or model with equal clarity. A reader should understand where and how SNAP/NAP participants will earn and redeem fruit and vegetable incentives; if and how firms will identify and track participation and incentive redemption; and what benefit and incentive processing technologies will be used to achieve success.
- i. Indicate if the proposed project is a new incentive program or an enhancement, expansion, or modification of an existing program. If the project is an enhancement, expansion, or modification of an existing program, do not assume the SNAP/NAP Policy Analyst is familiar with previous work.
 - ii. Indicate if any special SNAP/NAP waivers have been requested and approved by FNS. Describe what the FNS waivers include. List the type and number of SNAP/NAP authorized firms involved (e.g., five small brick and mortar stores, three farmers markets, two online outlets, one CSA). Include if firms will participate in online ordering and/or the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. If an identified firm is not SNAP/NAP authorized, describe the plan and timeline to achieve authorization.
 - iii. Describe the months and seasonality of the fruit and vegetable incentive project calendar (e.g., at a seasonal farmers market that will operate from June 15 through October 15 or at grocery retail outlets that operate year-round).
 - iv. Describe the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) for all firm types. Include:
 - a. The SNAP/NAP products eligible for purchase to earn the incentive (e.g., all SNAP-eligible items; all fruits and vegetables; or a subset or narrower group of items, such as state or regionally grown fruits and vegetables).
 - b. The eligible products for purchase when redeeming an incentive (e.g., all SNAP-eligible items; all fruits and vegetables; or a subset or narrower group of items, such as only state or regionally grown fruits and vegetables).
 - c. The ratio of SNAP/NAP purchase to earned fruit and vegetable incentive during a transaction (e.g., a 1:2 ratio. For every \$1 SNAP/NAP benefits purchase, \$2 fruit and vegetable incentive is earned).

- d. Any minimum or maximum value of fruit and vegetable incentive that can be earned or redeemed per day, per month, or per year.
- e. Any policies about fruit and vegetable incentive expiration.
- v. Describe the project's point-of-sale transaction(s) to include each of the following (match each transaction method with its firm type where applicable):
 - a. SNAP/NAP customer identification method(s).
 - b. The POS device or technology solution(s) to identify eligible SNAP/NAP purchases and fruit and vegetable incentives.
 - c. When and how participants and firms will know the amount of fruit and vegetable incentives earned or redeemed.
 - d. The refund monitoring process for foods purchased with SNAP/NAP benefits and fruit and vegetable incentives.
- vi. Describe the financial instrument and incentive distribution method(s) used to redeem earned fruit and vegetable incentives (e.g., tokens, paper voucher or coupons, loyalty account, EBT cards, or CSA share). Match each distribution method with firm type where applicable. Include any plans to incorporate forms of electronic incentives or integrate incentives into the state/territory EBT system. Explain how data will be secured. Describe the process, including the type of equipment needed by both vendors and customers, refund processes specific to the electronic delivery method for incentives, and information about the technology provider.
- vii. Address how SNAP/NAP participants will be informed of the fruit and vegetable incentive project, when and where the project will be implemented, how they can participate in the project, the allowable foods, and where they can get additional information. Include project promotion and outreach plan activities in this section describing the communication of the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) and delivery method(s) to SNAP/NAP participants.
- viii. Describe plans to train partner firms in the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) and delivery method(s). Include cashier training plan and activities in this section.
- ix. State whether individual SNAP/NAP participants or households will be tracked. If yes, include the method(s) that will be used to track SNAP/NAP individuals and how data will be secured (e.g., a store loyalty card issued, phone number, or other non-EBT # identifier).
- x. Indicate if nutrition education or other interventions will be combined with the fruit and vegetable incentive.
 - a. With regards to nutrition educational resources, GusNIP encourages applicants to consider resources that inform and connect communities with other state and federal programs that support food and nutrition security such as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and WIC. .
- xi. Indicate if SNAP/NAP participants will participate in questionnaires, interviews, or focus groups. Briefly describe recruitment methods and

whether their participation will be required to earn a fruit and vegetable incentive.

- xii. Indicate if the project anticipates making any technical enhancements to the firms' POS system(s), EBT, or other systems. Provide a detailed description of any such proposed technical enhancements.

3. **Field 12. Add Other Attachments.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

The following application content must be uploaded as separate files to **Field 12**. The formatting requirements are font no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, single spaced, and all attachments must be in PDF. Adhere to the page limits for each document below:

- a. **Logic Model.** A logic model is required and is limited to one page. Title the attachment as 'Logic Model' in the document header and save file as 'LogicModel'. Additional information and resources is available on the [NIFA Logic Models website](#).
- b. **Data Management Plan.** A Data Management Plan (DMP) of no more than two pages is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the project director (PD) and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see [Part V, B](#) of this NOFO, [NIFA's DMP](#)). Title the attachment as 'Data Management Plan' in the document header and save file as 'DataManagementPlan'. If you need help in preparing a data management plan or have questions about what constitutes a data management plan for this role (including questions about data privacy, etc.), please contact the NIFA program contacts listed in [Appendix I](#) of this NOFO.
- c. **Appendices to Project Narrative.** Title the attachment as 'Appendices' in the document header and save file as 'Appendices'. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. Appendices are limited to seven pages.
- d. **Key Organization Support.** Title signed letters of support from the state/territory SNAP/NAP agency 'SNAP-NAPsupport' and attach. Title the verification letter from the GusNIP NTAE 'NTAEletter' and attach (encouraged for new applications; optional for resubmitted applications). State/territory SNAP/NAP agency letter(s) of support are required. State/territory SNAP/NAP agency letter(s) must explain the specific role of the agency, including any activities the agency is expected to conduct in support of the project. The letter must also identify any State/Territory agency systems, including EBT systems, required to implement the proposed project along with an acknowledgment of who will bear the costs associated with any system changes if applicable. Letters of support from any other key organizations involved in the project acknowledging their support, contributions, commitment, and matching commitment documentation should be attached here. Title the single attachment 'Key Organization Support'. Provide evidence of broad community involvement in both planning and decision-making. This section is limited to two (2) page letters of support from each key organization.
- e. **Fiscal Agent Letter.** See [Part III, A](#) of this NOFO. If it is necessary to include a fiscal agent letter, then title the attachment as 'Fiscal Agent' in the document header and save file as 'FiscalAgent'. Include documentations of the applicant organization's non-profit status here.

For GusNIP FIP and GusNIP FLSP program area priority applications:

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the GusNIP-NI. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates.
2. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).** The PN for FIP and FLSP program area priority applications may not exceed 15 pages, *1.5 spaced* including written text, figures, and tables with 1-inch margins. The font size for text and tables should be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman. The page limits outlined here ensure fair competition. Organizing the proposal, clearly labeling each section, and sequencing them as indicated below, will help reviewers find the information to evaluate your proposal. Applications exceeding these limits may be administratively declined without review. The PN must include all of the following:

- a. **Introduction to the Community(ies) to be involved in the Project and the Benefit to the Community(ies).** Identify and succinctly describe the critical elements and needs of the local food economy or food system; including demographics, income, and geographic characteristics of the area or community(ies) to be served. Beyond a recitation of statistics, applications should describe local capabilities and assets, such as those identified in a community food assessment, and the involvement of community members in the context of project activities and operations, such as human centered design or community advisory board.

Note the SNAP/NAP participants or beneficiaries of the project and the community/health needs and opportunities being addressed should directly relate to project goals and the objectives. Describe how the community(ies) will benefit from a Nutrition Incentive project.

- b. **Personnel and Resources of the Organizations and Communities Involved in the Project.** List the organizations and communities to be involved in carrying out the proposed project. Include a summary description of the relevant previous work and experience of each community group, organization, or SNAP/NAP state/territory agency, including the applicant organization that will be involved, and any related project history. It is very important to have partner(s) who have knowledge and experience working with the intended audience(s), are members of the community(ies) the project serves, and that such partner(s) be involved in the leadership of the project. Proposals should demonstrate community linkages and coalitions as appropriate.

The qualifications of staff involved with the proposed project and/or organizational leadership should reflect the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed project activities or similar types of activities. Specify the degree to which paid and volunteer staff will be utilized. Experience in and connections with the community will be considered as important as academic or professional credentials in this regard.

To the extent practicable, ensure that residents are involved in planning; in particular, describe how the communities being served (particularly the SNAP/NAP participants, residents, and organizations) have been or will be involved in planning the project and will be engaged in its implementation and evaluation processes. Please reference planning activities, assessments, meetings, or other activities that demonstrate community input into key decision-making.

- c. **Project Goals and Intended Outcomes.** Concisely present the goals, associated objectives, and expected outputs and outcomes of the project in relation to the needs identified in the introduction such as the numbers served and the anticipated knowledge gains or actions (e.g., increased consumption of fruits and vegetables).

Outcomes should describe specific changes in knowledge, action, or condition that will occur because of the project and that will constitute “success” for the initiative. Outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

- d. **Activities to Achieve the Goals.** The activities proposed to achieve each objective must be clearly stated. Discuss how the proposed project outcomes will be realized by providing a systematic description of how the most important steps or milestones will be accomplished.

In addition to these descriptions, it is recommended that a table be provided with implementation details for these activities, including: (a) specific steps and achievements in planning, implementing, and evaluating; (b) timetables for milestones; and, as relevant, (c) expected numbers of SNAP/NAP participants involved in each step of the process. Most relevant is an explanation of why the applicant and its partners selected the activities proposed in the application.

- e. **Relationship to GusNIP-NI Purpose and Priorities.** Concisely present how the proposed project and its intended outcomes will contribute to the purpose and priorities of the GusNIP-NI as described in [Part I, B](#) of this NOFO. Discuss the specific changes intended among SNAP/NAP participants or in the communities served (e.g., increased food access) that address the GusNIP-NI purpose and priorities.

- f. **Project Evaluation.** Describe the qualitative and/or quantitative method(s) of evaluating success developing a viable fruit and vegetable incentive project. The evaluation must include: (1) a process assessment that documents the process, challenges, and success of implementation and operations; and (2) an outcome assessment that documents the project’s effectiveness in increasing fruit and vegetable purchases among SNAP/NAP participants. Outcome assessment requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) review. Project process assessment results must be provided to the NTAE annually. At a minimum, the outcome assessment must include collecting core firm-level and participant-level metrics, cooperating with, and contributing core data to the NTAE. The core participant-level data collection is an annual cross-sectional survey.

Applicants should discuss any opportunities and challenges with IRB review and the GusNIP Comprehensive Program Evaluation requirements described in [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO and how they will be addressed to meet requirements. Proposals should also describe any previous process, outcome, and impact evaluation experience with SNAP/NAP participants or other related food programs. The proposal should demonstrate the capacity and willingness to comply with the evaluation requirements.

- g. **Project Sustainability.** Describe which aspects or components of the project will continue beyond the end of the project period. Discuss how an infusion of Federal funds will advance local capacity-building and how, over time, other funding sources or business plans will be secured for the project to continue independent of GusNIP funds. Projects may identify actual or potential funding sources for continuation of the project. Applicants should differentiate between how the basic elements of the project will continue to serve community members versus how the community will be changed and its capacity advanced.
- h. **Non-supplantation.** Proposals must be for projects that will supplement, not replace, nonfederal funds that would otherwise be available to support incentive program activities. Applications must be for: 1) new projects, 2) expanding existing projects, or 3) enhancing existing projects. They may not be used to replace state/territory or local funds that would, in the absence of federal aid, be available or forthcoming for incentive programs. In the case of applications that will expand or enhance existing projects, this section must clearly describe lessons learned, what can be improved, and how those lessons and improvements are being incorporated into the current application to ensure an effective and successful project.
- i. **Response to previous review (if applicable).** This requirement only applies to Resubmitted Applications as described in [Part II, B](#) of the NOFO. The response to previous review must not exceed 1 page, 1.5 spaced with 1-inch margins. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman. This does not count towards the page limit for the PN.
- j. **Specific Program and Incentive Information.** Include the following information as a discrete section of the narrative to clearly communicate how the project will operate through authorized SNAP/NAP retailers and comply with applicable SNAP/NAP regulations and operating requirements. Do not reference other sections or charts located elsewhere in the proposal. Projects that incorporate multiple firm types or incentive models must describe each firm type and/or model with equal clarity. A reader should understand where and how SNAP/NAP participants will earn and redeem fruit and vegetable incentives; if and how firms will identify and track participation and incentive redemption; and what benefit and incentive processing technologies will be used to achieve success.
 - i. Indicate if the proposed project is a new incentive program, or an enhancement, expansion, or modification of an existing program. If the project is an enhancement, expansion, or modification of an existing program, do not assume the SNAP/NAP Policy Analyst is familiar with

- previous work.
- ii. Indicate if any special SNAP/NAP waivers have been requested and approved by FNS. Describe what the FNS waivers include.
 - iii. List the type and number of SNAP/NAP authorized firms involved (e.g., five small brick and mortar stores, three farmers' markets, two online outlets, one CSA). Include if firms will participate in online ordering and/or the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. If an identified firm is not SNAP/NAP authorized, describe the plan and timeline to achieve authorization.
 - iv. Describe the months and seasonality of the fruit and vegetable incentive project calendar (e.g., at a seasonal farmers market that will operate from June 15 through October 15 or at grocery retail outlets that operate year-round).
 - v. Describe the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) for all firm types. Include:
 - a. The SNAP/NAP products eligible for purchase to earn the incentive (e.g., all SNAP-eligible items; all fruits and vegetables; or a subset or narrower group of items, such as state or regionally grown fruits and vegetables).
 - b. The eligible products for purchase when redeeming an incentive (e.g., all SNAP-eligible items; all fruits and vegetables; or a subset or narrower group of items, such as only state or regionally grown fruits and vegetables).
 - c. The ratio of SNAP/NAP purchase to earned fruit and vegetable incentive during a transaction (e.g., a 1:2 ratio. For every \$1 SNAP/NAP benefits purchase, \$2 fruit and vegetable incentive is earned).
 - d. Any minimum or maximum value of fruit and vegetable incentive that can be earned or redeemed per day, per month, or per year.
 - e. Any policies about fruit and vegetable incentive expiration.
 - vi. Describe the project's point-of-sale transaction(s) to include each of the following (match each transaction method with its firm type where applicable):
 - a. SNAP/NAP customer identification method(s).
 - b. The POS device or technology solution(s) to identify eligible SNAP/NAP purchases and fruit and vegetable incentives.
 - c. When and how participants and firms will know the amount of fruit and vegetable incentives earned or redeemed.
 - d. The refund monitoring process for foods purchased with SNAP/NAP benefits and fruit and vegetable incentives.
 - vii. Describe the financial instrument and incentive distribution method(s) used to redeem earned fruit and vegetable incentives (e.g., tokens, paper voucher or coupons, loyalty account, EBT cards, or CSA share). Match each distribution method with firm type where applicable. Include any plans to incorporate forms of electronic incentives or integrate incentives into the state/territory EBT system. Explain how data will be secured.

Describe the process, including the type of equipment needed by both vendors and customers, refund processes specific to the electronic delivery method for incentives, and information about the technology provider.

- viii. Address how SNAP/NAP participants will be informed of the fruit and vegetable incentive project, when and where the project will be implemented, how they can participate in the project, the allowable foods, and where they can get additional information. Include project promotion and outreach plan activities in this section, describing the communication of the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) and delivery method(s) to SNAP/NAP participants.
- ix. Describe plans to train partner firms in the fruit and vegetable incentive model(s) and delivery method(s). Include cashier training plan and activities in this section.
- x. State whether individual SNAP/NAP participants or households will be tracked. If yes, include the method(s) that will be used to track SNAP/NAP individuals and how data will be secured (e.g., a store loyalty card issued, phone number, or other non-EBT # identifier).
- xi. Indicate if nutrition education or other interventions will be combined with the fruit and vegetable incentive.
 - a. With regards to nutrition educational resources, GusNIP encourages applicants to consider resources that inform and connect communities with other state and federal programs that support food and nutrition security such as EFNEP and WIC.
- xii. Indicate if SNAP/NAP participants will participate in questionnaires, interviews, or focus groups. Briefly describe recruitment methods and whether their participation will be required to earn a fruit and vegetable incentive.
- xiii. Indicate if the project anticipates making any technical enhancements to the firms' POS system(s), EBT, or other systems. Provide a detailed description of any such proposed technical enhancements.

3. **Field 12. Add Other Attachments.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following application content must be uploaded as separate files to **Field 12**. The formatting requirements are font no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, single spaced, and all attachments must be in PDF. Adhere to the page limits for each document below:
- a. **Logic Model.** A logic model is required and is limited to one page. Title the attachment as 'Logic Model' in the document header and save file as 'LogicModel'. Additional information and resources is available on the [NIFA Logic Models website](#).
 - b. **Data Management Plan.** A DMP of no more than two pages is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the PD and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see [Part V, B](#) of this NOFO, [NIFA's Data Management Plan](#)). Title the attachment as 'Data Management Plan' in the document header and save file as 'DataManagementPlan'. If you need help in preparing a data

management plan or have questions about what constitutes a data management plan for this role (including questions about data privacy, etc.), please contact the NIFA program contacts listed in [Appendix I](#) of this NOFO.

- c. **Business Plan.** A business plan is required for FIP and FLSP applicants and limited to five pages. Title the attachment as ‘Business Plan’ in the document header and save file as ‘BusinessPlan’. The Business plan should provide evidence (e.g., a market analysis, an endowment plan, or financial management business plan) to demonstrate how longevity of the project will be achieved. Business plan outlines or any other documentation of evidence for achieving independence from GusNIP financial support should be no more than five pages.
- d. **Appendices to Project Narrative.** Title the attachment as ‘Appendices’ in the document header and save file as ‘Appendices’. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. Appendices are limited to seven pages.
- e. **Key Organization Support.** Title signed letters of support from the state/territory SNAP/NAP agency ‘SNAP-NAPsupport’ and attach. Title the verification letter from the GusNIP NTAE ‘NTAEletter’ and attach (encouraged for new applications; optional for resubmitted applications). State/territory SNAP/NAP agency letter(s) of support are required. State/territory SNAP/NAP agency letter(s) must explain the specific role of the agency, including any activities the agency is expected to conduct in support of the project. The letter must also identify any state/territory agency systems, including EBT systems, required to implement the proposed project along with an acknowledgment of who will bear the costs associated with any system changes if applicable. Letters of support from any other key organizations involved in the project acknowledging their support, contributions, commitment, and matching commitment documentation should be attached here. Title the single attachment ‘Key Organization Support’. Provide evidence of broad community involvement in both planning and decision-making. This section is limited to two (2) page letters of support from each key organization.
- f. **Fiscal Agent Letter.** See [Part III, A](#) of this NOFO. If it is necessary to include a fiscal agent letter, then title the attachment as ‘Fiscal Agent’ in the document header and save file as ‘FiscalAgent’. Include documentations of the applicant organization’s nonprofit status here.

For all program area priority applications (GusNIP FPP, GusNIP FIP, and GusNIP FLSP):

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.

R&R Personal Data. This information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award (see **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#)).

R&R Budget. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Match** – Grants that require matching funds as specified under [Part III, B](#) of this NOFO must list in their *budget justification* the matching sources, the identification of the

entity(ies) providing the match, and the total pledged amount. A written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement) is not required. However, applicants are subject to the documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, as specified in [2 CFR Part 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards \(the Uniform Guidance\),”](#) and [7 CFR 3430, “Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions.”](#)

2. **Field D. Domestic Travel** – During the tenure of a grant, PDs must attend a PD meeting each year. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss post-award management of their projects, opportunities for collaborative efforts, and to enhance dissemination of exemplary end products/results. Reasonable travel expenses to attend this meeting may be included in the application’s budget under travel expenses.
3. **Indirect Costs (IDC)** – See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO for funding restrictions regarding IDC, and Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for additional information.
4. **Fruit and Vegetable Incentives** – Total fruit and vegetable incentive dollars from both Federal and Non-Federal funds must be summarized in the Budget Justification with clear affirmation of which budget category or categories were used to calculate totals. For example, a project design may necessitate incentives are included in F.8 Other Direct Costs and F.5 Subawards/Contractual Costs, however, the Budget Justification should clearly describe that total fruit and vegetable incentives are a sum of F.8 and the portion of F.5 specified as incentive.

Supplemental Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 2. Program to which the applicant is applying.** Enter the program name and the program code. Accurate entry is critical. See **Program Area Names and Program Codes** provided in **Table 9**, below. Accurate entry of the program code is critical for proper and timely processing of an application.

Table 9: Description of Program Area Names and Codes

Program Area Name	Program Code
GusNIP Pilot Projects	FPP
GusNIP Standard Projects	FIP

2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

C. Funding Restrictions

1. Fully Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate

Applicants must use the current negotiated Indirect Cost (IDC) rate established by its cognizant Federal agency (the agency that provides the most funds). If awarded, the applicant will be required to produce a negotiated IDC rate agreement from the cognizant agency to recover IDC.

If the applicant does not have a negotiated rate and NIFA is the cognizant agency, the applicant may request an IDC rate. Applicants are not required to complete the IDC package during the application process and need only to calculate a rate to serve as a basis for

requesting IDC. If awarded, the applicant will be required to submit a complete IDC proposal package to obtain a negotiated rate.

Organizations that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate, may elect the de minimis rate ([2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). The Uniform Guidance offers the option of electing to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described above and in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be charged consistently as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If elected, this methodology must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as a nonfederal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which it may do at any time.

See [NIFA Indirect Costs](#) for information including [additional resources](#) and [NIFA Indirect Cost Guidance Chart](#).

2. Sub-award Restriction

The applicant is expected to perform a substantive portion of the project and no more than 33 percent of GusNIP-NI projects, as determined by budget expenditures, may be subawarded. NIFA will allow applicants to indicate in their proposal if they intend to subaward more than 33 percent of the total award for FPP, FIP, FLSP program areas. This deviation will require NIFA pre-approval. If pre-approval is desired, contact the Program Contact (see [Appendix I](#)). Projects may divide their budget allocations between partners as it fits their work plan. (For additional knowledge or expertise that is not available within the applicant organization, funds for expert consultation may be included in the “All Other Direct Costs” section of the proposed budget).

3. Nutrition Education Programming

Grantees that receive GusNIP funds and receive funds or collaborate with other federal and/or USDA supported nutrition education programs, such as EFNEP, should keep in mind that these funds may not be used to provide actual cash or other financial incentives. EFNEP funds can be used for educational efforts at venues serving children, young adults, and families with children with limited financial resources.

4. SNAP Policy

Below is a list of items and activities that may not be funded using grant funds (neither Federal nor match funds):

- a. POS equipment necessary for redeeming SNAP/NAP benefits may not be purchased for retailers ([Public Law 88-525](#)). Upgrades to retailers’ existing equipment specifically for the purpose of enhancing the issuance and/or redemption of fruit and vegetable incentives is acceptable.
- b. Firm inventory or stocking fruits and vegetables for retailers.
- c. Issuing incentives via refund.
- d. Any alteration of the EBT Car/NAP paper coupons.

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. NIFA's Evaluation Process

NIFA evaluates each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this NOFO. All administrative requirements must be met in order for the application to proceed to the next level of review. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that have met the administrative requirements using a review panel (see [NIFA Peer Review Process](#)).

Scientific Peer Review Process:

NIFA selects reviewers for the review panel based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

1. The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities.
2. The need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields.
3. The need to include other experts (e.g., agricultural producers, range or forest managers/operators, researchers, educators, evaluators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs.
4. The need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, and private, profit, and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations.
5. The need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to the reviewer's area of expertise, geographic area, and entity type, as appropriate.
6. The need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of NIFA will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., changes in the scope of work, adherence to SNAP/NAP policy, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

After the review process has been completed, NIFA sends copies of reviews, *not* including the identity of reviewers, and a summary (if applicable) of the review panel comments to the PD.

Conflicts of interest. NIFA takes extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence the review or evaluation (see [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#)).

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following equally weighted evaluation criteria to review **FPP program area priority applications** submitted to this program.

1. **Alignment with GusNIP-NI Priorities.** How well the project aligns with GusNIP-NI priorities as described in [Part I, B](#) and [Part V, B, III](#).
2. **Advancing the Purpose of the GusNIP-NI.** How well the proposed project advances GusNIP-NI purpose as described in [Part I, B](#) and [Part V, B, II](#).
3. **Community Benefits.** The significance of the food and nutrition security issues that will be addressed by the proposed project and an informative description of the community, its characteristics, assets, and needs.
4. **Project Goals, Objectives, and Intended Outcomes.** The appropriateness of the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the project and how these goals will be achieved throughout the project period.
5. **Qualifications of the Organizations Involved in the Project.** The relevance of the experience of the organizations that are involved in the proposed project, including the applicant entity, and the type and extent of support that other organizations will be providing or the extent to which these organizations demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the overall project. The applicant organization demonstrates a history of, commitment to, and/or direct involvement in food and nutrition security, encouraging healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families, or nutrition incentive projects in communities. The qualifications of staff involved with the proposed project and/or organizational leadership reflects the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed activities or similar types of activities. Professional salaries are in balance with compensation given to residents for their participation in the initiative.
6. **Project Evaluation.** The strength of the proposed project's plans and capacity to undertake a self-assessment, cooperate with and participate in the GusNIP Comprehensive Evaluation, share project results in high quality community food security work that emphasizes food security, nutritional quality, environmental stewardship, connect America's farmers to SNAP/NAP, and advance local capacity and, over time, other funding sources for financial support.
7. **Timeline and Budget.** The timeline and budget for accomplishing project goals, objectives, and outcomes is realistic, achievable, and cost effective.

NIFA will use the following evaluation criteria to review **FIP and FLSP program area priority applications** submitted to this program. Expectations are commensurate with project size, budget, and complexity.

1. **Alignment with GusNIP-NI Priorities.** How well the project aligns with GusNIP-NI priorities as described in [Part I, B](#) and [Part V, B, III](#).
2. **Advancing the Purpose of the GusNIP-NI.** How well the proposed project advances GusNIP-NI purpose as described in [Part I, B](#) and [Part V, B, II](#).
3. **Community Benefits.** The significance of the food and nutrition security issues that will be addressed by the proposed project and an informative description of the community, its characteristics, assets, and needs.

4. **Project Goals, Objectives, and Intended Outcomes.** The appropriateness of the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the project and how these goals will be achieved throughout the project period.
5. **Qualifications of the Organizations Involved in the Project.** The relevance of the experience of the organizations that are involved in the proposed project, including the applicant entity, and the type and extent of support that other organizations will be providing or the extent to which these organizations demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the overall project. The applicant organization demonstrates direct involvement in food and nutrition security, encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families, or nutrition incentive projects in communities. The qualifications of staff involved with the proposed project and/or organizational leadership reflects the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed activities or similar types of activities. Professional salaries are in balance with compensation given to residents for their participation in the initiative.
6. **Project Evaluation.** The strength of the proposed project's plans and capacity to undertake a self-assessment, collect the minimum core data set, cooperate with and participate in the GusNIP Comprehensive Evaluation, share project results in high quality community food security work that emphasizes food security, nutritional quality, connect America's farmers to SNAP/NAP.
7. **Project Sustainability.** Demonstrate the potential for long-term project sustainability, addressing future financial support as well as the capacity to conduct project activities. Evidence is provided to demonstrate that the project is likely to become sustained independent of GusNIP funding (e.g., a market analysis, an endowment plan, financial management plan, or business plan).
8. **Timeline and Budget.** The timeline and budget for accomplishing project goals, objectives, and outcomes is realistic, achievable, and cost effective.

For all GusNIP program areas (i.e., FPP, FIP and FLSP) where proposals are found to be equally meritorious, based on peer review, selection for funding will be weighed in favor of proposals aligning with and advancing the GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program purpose and priorities as described above. All GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program priorities are given equal consideration. Additionally, all applications must adhere to SNAP/NAP policy. A Policy Analyst will review grant applications for adherence to SNAP/NAP program rules and regulations.

C. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information prior to an award and update the information as needed. Applicants may only need to provide an update if there was a change in previously provided information under this or another NIFA program. NIFA provides the requisite forms during the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible for award under this program, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual, or a determination that an applicant is not responsible).

D. Application Disposition

Applicants may withdraw at any time before NIFA makes a final funding decision. NIFA will retain all applications, including withdrawn applications and unfunded applications.

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds authorized, the NIFA awarding official will make grants to responsible and eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this NOFO. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant must be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period.

All funds granted by NIFA under this NOFO may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the program-specific laws and regulations, NIFA General Awards Administrative Provisions ([7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E](#)), USDA Regulations for Grants and Agreements ([2 CFR Chapter IV](#)), Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance ([2 CFR part 200](#)), [NIFA-specific terms and conditions](#), [USDA General Terms and Conditions for Federal Awards](#), and approved budget and project plans.

The Notice of Award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)).

Federal Financial Management Requirements. Grantees are expected to comply with applicable federal financial management requirements included in the award's terms and conditions and [2 CFR Part 200](#). Below is a list of major requirements. Failure to comply could trigger significant audit liability and require global reconstruction of the grantees accounting system.

Separation of Funds. To avoid commingling of funds, grantees must establish a unique account(s) in their accounting system to capture and accumulate funding and related costs of the grant, apart from other federal and non-federal grants, projects and cost centers.

Budget Categories. To reduce the risk of material budget fluctuations changing the grant's scope and of applying indirect cost rates to prohibited cost categories, grantees must establish unique object codes in their accounting system to capture and accumulate costs by budget category (e.g., salaries, fringe benefits, consultants, travel, participant support costs, and subcontracts).

Consistent Treatment of Costs. Grantees must treat costs consistently across all federal and nonfederal grants, projects, and cost centers. For example, grantees may not direct-charge federal grants for costs typically considered indirect in nature, unless done consistently. Examples of indirect costs include administrative salaries, rent, accounting fees, and utilities. In most cases, the cost to develop an accounting system adequate to justify direct charging of the aforementioned items outweighs the benefits. As a result, use of an indirect cost rate is the most effective mechanism to recover these costs and not violate federal financial requirements of consistency, allocability and allowability. Additional guidance on indirect cost calculations can be found at Indirect Costs.

Award Notice. The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)).

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this NOFO (some are listed here: [Federal Regulations](#)). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#) applies to all NIFA awards.

C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Output and reporting requirements are included in the [award terms and conditions](#). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, they will be identified in the Award Notice.

As described in [Part I, D Program Policy](#), all GusNIP-NI recipients will be required to provide monthly updates of participating SNAP authorized partner firms to FNS and to participate in the comprehensive evaluation and cooperate with the NTAE by:

1. Supporting implementation of evaluation requirements;
2. Meeting periodically with staff from NIFA, FNS, the NTAE, and other GusNIP grantees to review project plans, evaluation objectives and methods, data collection and reporting requirements, and analysis and reporting of results;
3. Facilitating access to or providing documentation of project implementation, operations, costs, and outcomes; and
4. Facilitating site visits and interviews with project staff, partners, and program participants if necessary.

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

Delegation of fiscal responsibility. Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

Changes in Budget or Project Plans. In accordance with [2 CFR 200.308](#), awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons (the awardee is subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award):

1. Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program without prior written approval (even if there is no associated budget revision required);
2. Change in a key person specified in the application or the Federal award.
3. Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project;
4. Inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with [2 CFR 200 Subpart E \(Cost Principles\)](#), or [2 CFR Part 300 Appendix IX, \(Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals\)](#), or [48 CFR](#), unless waived by the Federal awarding agency, [48 CFR Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures](#);
5. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense ([2 CFR 200.456 Participant support costs](#));
6. Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a Federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see [2 CFR 200.333, Fixed Amount Sub-awards](#)), unless described in the application and funded in the approved Federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services;
7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-Federal entity;
8. The need for additional Federal funds to complete the project;
9. Salary rates of pay exceeding an Executive Level IV salary range (see “Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule” under the “Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables” header at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>) require prior NIFA approval. This rate does not include any fringe benefits, general and administrative (G&A), overhead, or other expenses. Requests for approval must include the salary rate of pay and a justification for the rate and be sent to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) to awards@usda.gov;
10. No more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(ies) without prior written approval of the ADO, except subcontracts to Federal agencies;
11. Transferring funds between the construction and non-construction work under a Federal award; and
12. A no-cost extension (meaning, an extension of time that does not require the obligation of additional Federal funds) of the period of performance, other than any one-time extension authorized by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph 2 CFR 200.308(g)(2). All requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the

conclusion of the period of performance. The Federal agency may approve multiple no-cost extensions under a Federal award if not prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of NIFA transaction records, which are available to the public. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, applicants should clearly mark any information within the application they wish to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary. NIFA will retain a copy of an application that does not result in an award for three years. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An applicant may withdraw at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of [Executive Order 12372](#), which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. Chapter 35](#)), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under [OMB Document No. 0524-0039](#).

D. Language Access Services

NIFA offers language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information, free of charge. If you need interpretation or translation services, please visit [NIFA Language Access Services](#).

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

For Programmatic questions please email:

NutritionIncentive@usda.gov

For SNAP/NAP policy questions please email:

sm.fn.GusNIP@usda.gov

For administrative questions related to:

1. Grants.gov, see [Part IV](#) of this NOFO
2. Other NOFO or application questions, please email grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov
3. Awards under this NOFO, please email awards@usda.gov

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Courier/Package Delivery Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Approved Products List – APL
Assistance Listing Number – ALN
Authorized Departmental Officer – ADO
Authorized Representative – AR
Community Supported Agriculture – CSA
Data Management Plan – DMP
Electronic Benefits Transfer – EBT
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program – EFNEP
Farmers Markets – FM
Food and Nutrition Service – FNS
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive – FINI
GusNIP Pilot Projects Program Code – FPP
GusNIP Projects Program Code – FLP
GusNIP Large-Scale Projects Program Code – FLSP
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program – GusNIP
Institutional Review Board – IRB
Memorandum of Understanding – MOU
National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA
National Program Leader – NPL
Nutrition Assistance Program Block Grants – NAP
Nutrition Incentive Program – NI
National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Center – NTAE
Online Purchasing Pilot – OPP
Point of Sale – POS
Produce Prescription Program – PPR
Notice of Funding Opportunity - NOFO
Research, Education, and Economics – REE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP
United States Department of Agriculture – USDA
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children – WIC

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Refer to [7 CFR 3430 Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions](#) for additional definitions.

Definitions:

Community Food Assessment:

A collaborative and participatory process that systematically examines a broad range of community food issues and assets, to inform change actions to make the community more food secure.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA):

CSA ventures require participants to pay an annual or seasonal subscription fee, in advance, for a set amount of food (share) that the business expects to produce that year/season. CSA shares are typically made available or delivered during regular intervals (e.g., weekly or bi-weekly) during the active (harvest) season. CSAs primarily sell local produce (at minimum the majority, more than 50 percent, of their sales come from local produce) where local produce is defined as agricultural products, particularly fruit and vegetables, as well as meat, fish, dairy, and/or grains grown, gathered, or hunted either within the state where the CSA is headquartered or within 100 miles of the CSA's headquarters (so long as the point of origin is still within the states or territories of the United States of America). A CSA is NOT considered a store type but simply a way of doing business. CSAs can be conducted by SNAP/NAP-authorized agricultural producers or co-ops.

Emergency Feeding Organization:

A public or nonprofit organization that administers activities and projects (including the activities and projects of a charitable institution, a food bank, a food pantry, a hunger relief center, a soup kitchen, or a similar public or private nonprofit eligible recipient agency) providing nutrition assistance to relieve situations of emergency and distress through the provision of food to needy persons, including low-income and unemployed persons. ([See 7 U.S.C. 7501](#)).

Peer Reviewers:

Individuals selected from among those recognized as uniquely qualified by training and experience in their respective fields to give expert advice on the merit of grant applications in such fields who evaluate eligible proposals submitted to this program in their respective area(s) of expertise

Food Security:

Access to affordable, nutritious, and traditionally appropriate food for all people at all times.

Fruits and Vegetables:

For the purposes of the incentives provided under FPP, FIP, FLSP program areas any variety of frozen, canned, dried, or fresh whole or cut fruits and vegetables without added sugars, fats, oils, and salt (i.e. sodium).

Incentives:

Any financial inducements that would increase the purchase and consumption of eligible fruits and vegetables by SNAP/NAP clients. See [Part I, D](#) of this NOFO for details.

Logic Model:

A systematic and visual way to present and share an understanding of the relationships among resources available to operate a program and includes planned activities and anticipated results; and the presentation of the resources, inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts.

Opportunity Zone:

An economically distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities qualify as opportunity zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the state and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

Outcomes:

The changes in the wellbeing of individuals that can be attributed to a particular project, program, or policy, or that a program hopes to achieve over time. They indicate a measurable change in participant knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors. For the purposes of this document, “impact” and “outcome” are used interchangeably.

Process Evaluation:

Examining program activities in terms of (1) participant characteristics and demographics; (2) the program’s organization, funding, and staffing; and (3) its location and timing. Process evaluation focuses on program activities rather than outcomes.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Nutrition Assistance Program Block Grants (NAP):

The programs for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands ([7 U.S.C. 2028](#)).

Non-profit Organization:

A special type of corporation that has been organized to meet specific tax-exempt purposes. To qualify for nonprofit status, your corporation must be formed to benefit: (1) the public, (2) a specific group of individuals, or (3) the membership of the nonprofit.

Nutrition Security:

Having consistent access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.

Resubmitted Application:

A project application that was previously submitted to a program, but the application was not funded.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

The supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ([7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq](#)). The SNAP program operates in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Virgin Islands.

Value Chain:

Adding value to a product, including production, marketing, and the provision of after-sales service, and incorporating fair pricing to farms. Involves keeping the final pricing to customers within competitive range. Value chain development, therefore, is a process of building relationships between supplier and buyer that are reciprocal and win-win instead of always striving to buy at lowest cost.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.