

# THE OUTLOOK

*Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs*

## March 2015

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## Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Application - SY2015-16 Deadline: March 20, 2015

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application for School Year 2015-2016 will be posted online no later than February 6, 2015 under *What's New* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/>. Carefully review the application packet for all of the FFVP program requirements. All elementary schools (grades 8 and below) that participate in the National School Lunch Program and have 50% or more of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals are eligible to apply. If the application process does not yield enough applicants to allocate the total FFVP federal monies, another application will be released for elementary schools with less than 50% of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2015-2016) is March 20, 2015.

The purpose of FFVP is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). FFVP grant funds are used to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children at no cost, during the school day outside of the reimbursable meal(s) periods. **This program is different from the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.** The DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allocate USDA Foods planned assistance level (pal) monies so that schools may acquire fresh fruits and vegetable to use during the service of reimbursable meals to students (breakfast and lunch).

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### Other Grant Opportunities:

- New Alternative School Breakfast Grants

Deadline March 13, 2015

The School Superintendents Association (AASA), with funding from the Walmart Foundation, has released a new request for proposals to support alternative school breakfast serving methods, including breakfast in the classroom and grab'n'go. The deadline to apply is March 13, 2015. More information can be found [here](#).

- Spring 2015 Jamba Juice "It's All About the Fruit and Veggies" Garden Grant

Deadline March 6, 2015

Need funding for YOUR school garden program? The Spring 2015 Jamba Juice "It's All About the Fruit and Veggies" Garden Grant is now open and accepting applications for 30 awards. Be one of this year's winners! One Grand Prize Winner will be selected to receive a \$1,500 garden package! 29 winners will receive a \$500 award package. Applications are due March 6th, 2015! More details can be found [here](#).

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### Final Rule for Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Final Rule will be published officially on Monday, March 2nd in the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>. Once state agencies have received further information and training from the USDA, ISBE will provide technical assistance for implementation at the local level.

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## Attend the 8th Annual School Wellness Conference

The 8th Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference is hosted by Illinois Action for Healthy Kids (IL AFHK). Conference sessions will highlight successful school health and wellness-related outreach in schools, innovative projects that improve the overall health of the school community, and emerging issues impacting school health and wellness.

**When:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 / 8:00AM - 3:30PM

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn  
1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL  
Phone: (217) 352-9970

**Agenda:** See the full conference agenda [here](#).

**Audience:** School Administrators, Physical Education Teachers, School Food Personnel, School Nurses, School Health/Wellness Team Members, Board Members and other leaders of healthcare organizations, Students/Learners, Educators, Community Advocates, Childcare Providers

**Cost:** \$75.00 Early Bird (until March 15, 2015)  
\$100.00 Standard (March 16 - April 17, 2015)  
(Registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, conference materials and raffle prizes)

**Registration:** Early bird registration ends March 15, 2015!  
<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/event/236>

**Questions:** Contact Ryan Monroe, AFHK Illinois State Coordinator, at [rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org](mailto:rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org) or 563-419-1931.

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## Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) – Unused Funds

For the current school year (SY15), ISBE and the Department of Defense (DOD) allowed participation in the DOD Fresh program to all schools that requested to participate. (This is different from the NSLP Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grants.) Schools determined themselves how much of their entitlement they would spend on the DoD program.

Recent reports from DoD indicate Illinois is way behind schedule to utilize allocated funds and many schools that have money allocated to them have yet to place any orders for fresh fruits or vegetables.

Schools can see how much SY15 entitlement they allocated by selecting *DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - New* on the *Annual Order Forms* drop-down menu option on the Illinois Commodity System (ICS). Those schools that have not spent any of the money allocated to them are advised to contact the DoD, Mary Ann Sharpe at 215-737-8294 to begin placing orders or risk having the money used by other schools participating in the program. You may also call ISBE at 217-782-2491 if you

have questions regarding the DoD Fresh program or visit the DoD information page here:  
[http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/DoD\\_FreshFruitandVegProg.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/DoD_FreshFruitandVegProg.pdf)

The DoD Fresh program is a “use-it-or-lose-it” program, unless the current trend ceases, as in previous years, we anticipate there will be unused funds available for use by schools participating in the program beginning sometime in April 2015. Watch the ICS message board for updates on the DoD Fresh program.

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## School Nutrition Programs Food Handler Training

The Food Handler Training Enforcement Act requires all food service area employees or food handlers that work with open or unpackaged foods, food service equipment or utensils, or any food contact surfaces to receive an approved food handler training.

This training requirement includes school food service staff. School food services are classified as being “non-restaurant” facilities. Food handlers working in non-restaurant facilities must complete an approved training program by July 1, 2016. Additional information regarding the Food Handler Training Enforcement Act is available at  
[http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/fdd/FSSMC\\_FoodHandler\\_FAQ\\_V5\\_07072014.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/fdd/FSSMC_FoodHandler_FAQ_V5_07072014.pdf).

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division has been approved by the IDPH to provide training to school food service staff. School food service staff that complete the training and are able to score a passing grade on the required assessment will receive a certificate that is valid for 3 years. Trainings provided by the ISBE Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division are free of charge for school food service employees.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Any food service staff person that has a current Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) **does not** need to complete a food handler training. Food service staff that have completed an Illinois approved FSSMC 8 hour course (Prior to July 1, 2014 a 15 hour course and 5 hour refresher course were offered) would have had to pay a \$35 fee to IDPH for the Illinois issued certificate. An FSSMC certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of the exam. ISBE is **not** offering any FSSMC trainings.

ISBE has the following dates and locations scheduled for the food handler training.

- Belleville, March 24, 2015 – SEATING STILL AVAILABLE
- Carterville, March 25, 2015 – Morning Session FULL
- Carterville, March 25, 2015 – Afternoon Session SEATING STILL AVAILABLE
- Effingham, March 26, 2015 – LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

Additional Spring, Summer, and Fall dates will be posted as they are confirmed. Register now by visiting <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

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## Newly Released Document to Assist with Local Wellness Policies

[Putting Local School Wellness Policies into Action: Stories from School Districts and Schools](#) is a compilation of 11 stories that provide examples of steps and strategies used to implement wellness policies including improving school meals and increasing physical activity opportunities for students.

FNS worked closely with CDC in the initial stages to identify stories from schools and districts. These stories were chosen using input from school health professional organizations and by consulting the list of schools that received the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction. The goal was to highlight schools that had taken action in key areas, such as improving school meals and increasing physical activity levels among students. To ensure a diverse collection of stories, we looked at the setting of each school or district (urban, suburban, or rural) and the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

The resulting 11 stories provide examples of the steps some schools have taken to implement various aspects of the wellness policy, with special attention to how activities were designed to accomplish specific goals. They identify the key supporters, wellness champions, partners, and resources used in these settings.

We hope that these stories will assist other schools and districts with implementing their district wellness policy. Please help us spread the word! This resource will be posted to the "Samples, Stories, and Guidance" section of the Healthier School Environment Resources [website](#), as well as the FNS wellness policy [website](#).

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## **Save the Dates to End Hunger**

### **Annual Illinois Hunger Summit – Tuesday, May 5, 2015**

Mark your calendars for the annual Hunger Summit! It will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, IL. This is a great opportunity to network and learn more about ending hunger.

### **Annual Lobby Day – Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

Mark your calendars for the annual Lobby Day! It will take place at the State Capitol in Springfield, IL. This is a great opportunity to meet with elected officials to discuss solutions to ending hunger in our community.

### **Questions about either of these events?**

Contact Rebecca Frazin at 773-843-2846 or [rfrazin@gcfd.org](mailto:rfrazin@gcfd.org)

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## **Enroll in Team Nutrition for Schools Today!**

Illinois currently has 1,796 schools enrolled in Team Nutrition. To receive free nutrition education resources, posters, and more, join this group at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/join-team>. Read more about Team Nutrition at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/join-team>.

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## Calendar of Events

### March 2015

- 10 Begin submitting last month's child nutrition claims for reimbursement in WINS through IWAS. ALL child nutrition program claims (original and revised) must be received by ISBE no later than 60 days from the last day of the month you are claiming. Due dates for reimbursement claims are listed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nutrition\\_claim\\_due\\_dates.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nutrition_claim_due_dates.pdf)
- 12 Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education meeting via vtel at Springfield and Chicago Offices – 9 am – 12pm - <http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/SETFPE.htm>
- 13-20 Make changes to next month's USDA Foods order
- 18 ISBE Board Meeting - Springfield Office - <http://www.isbe.net/board/default.htm>
- 24 School Nutrition Programs Food Handler Training - Belleville  
Register at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaendar/asp/eventlist.asp>
- 25 School Nutrition Programs Food Handler Training - Carterville  
Register at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaendar/asp/eventlist.asp>
- 26 School Nutrition Programs Food Handler Training - Effingham  
Register at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaendar/asp/eventlist.asp>
- 27 Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education meeting via vtel at Springfield and Chicago Offices – 9 am – 12pm - <http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/SETFPE.htm>



**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street, W-270  
Springfield, IL 62777  
Phone: 800/545-7892 or 217/782-2491  
Fax: 217/524-6124  
Email: [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net)

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or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#) (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact\\_info/hotlines.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm).

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