

RFA0338 FreshConnect CSA for SNAP Program

Questions + Answers

1. To offer this to the CSA farmers that participate in our Farmers' Market, is the market required to participate in the FreshConnect Checks Program?
 - a. No, this is a separate initiative from the FreshConnect Checks Program.

2. How does one reach the 30% WMBE requirement if there are no MWBE farmers that accept EBT and provide CSA in the area we would propose to cover?
 - a. The 30% MWBE requirement is a statutory requirement. The directory of MWBEs can be viewed at: <https://ny.newnycontracts.com>. The grantee will need to provide good faith effort documentation to determine if there is or is not an available MWBE opportunity. The Department will review this information upon submittal for goal achievement or potential exemption.

3. Would you consider smaller pilot amounts so that all areas of the state might have a chance to access this program?
 - a. No. Per RFA0338 Section 3B: Applicants must request the full available award of \$50,000 for the project to be considered.

4. Can you explain the project duration to be complete by Nov 15, 2024? With completing an application then getting an executed contract we would be past the project duration.
 - a. This project is for the current growing season. Contract execution will be prioritized.

5. Do multi-farm CSAs qualify for this grant?
 - a. Yes, as long as the program requirements and eligibility criteria defined in RFA0338 Section 4 are met. Per RFA0338 Section 4B: Applicants must select a CSA program to support which already accepts SNAP benefits as a form of payment.

6. Can an applicant identify their own CSA program?
 - a. Yes, as long as the CSA meets the eligibility criteria defined in RFA0338 Section 4B.

7. What do we need to track and report for the grant regarding share payments made by participants using their EBT cards?
 - a. Per RFA0338 Section 9A: *claim for payment report must include a SNAP transaction report clearly noting each SNAP transaction requesting reimbursement.*

8. Are FreshConnect funds limited for subsidizing CSA shares for SNAP recipients who make payments for their shares using their EBT benefits?
 - a. Per RFA0338 Section 4C: 80% of the grant award must be spent on food; the other 20% can be spent on other administrative costs.

9. We already subsidize the shares 50% and members pay the other half. Some (but not all) households make payments for their share using their EBT card.
 - a. Per RFA0338 Section 4C: this grant allows for up to 50% of the CSA shares to be covered for SNAP customers. The remainder or an additional portion of the share can be covered by other funds if available.