



Food and
Nutrition
Service

December 26, 2018

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SUBJECT: Lapse in FY 2019 Appropriations and Impacts for the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

SFMNP State Agency Directors
All States

The second continuing resolution for fiscal year 2019 (P.L. 115-298) expired on Friday, December 21, 2018. Due to a lapse in appropriations for the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) an orderly partial shutdown of operations has resulted.

We understand the uncertainty that these circumstances present for FNS customers and partners nationwide. Effective today, many FNS staff will be furloughed pending reinstatement of funding by Congress, and will not be available by phone or email. They cannot carry out normal work functions until funding is restored.

The SFMNP was recently authorized and funded under the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. A lapse of appropriations does not have an impact on availability of SFMNP funding. However, staff furloughs may delay SFMNP funding allocations to State agencies. At this time, FNS does not anticipate significant operational impacts as the SFMNP is a seasonal benefit program with annual grant funds typically distributed to State agencies in winter or early spring.

State agencies are expected to continue to administer the program in accordance with Federal statute and regulations. Please direct any questions regarding the lapse in funding to your Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

cc: Regional Administrators