

Maryland Nonprofit Organizations: Submit Your Proposal and Be A Part of Maryland's Food Supplement Outreach Plan

Overview

The Maryland State Department of Human Resources (DHR) and many nonprofit organizations share the mission of promoting access to important programs, including the Food Supplement Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program). Although participation in the Food Supplement Program is increasing, there are still individuals eligible, but not participating. Working together to leverage the outreach and individual assistance efforts of local nonprofit organizations yields benefits for everyone.

By becoming part of the state's outreach plan, your nonprofit can maximize efforts and get even more people connected to the Food Supplement Program. The Maryland Department of Human Resources is now accepting proposals from nonprofits to be a part of the outreach plan.

Funding

If the Maryland State Department of Human Resources (DHR) chooses to include nonprofits' efforts in their state Food Supplement Program Outreach Plan, these nonprofit organizations can be reimbursed for these efforts with federal funds up to 50 percent of their expenses related to approved outreach activities. Staff time and expenditures on marketing efforts like media buys, printing materials, and postage costs are allowable, but in-kind contributions are not allowable. There are also provisions to help with application assistance.

Upon discussion and approval from the Maryland State Department of Human Resources (DHR), the nonprofit enters into an agreement with DHR to provide Food Supplement Program outreach. At its discretion, DHR would include this agreement as part of its annual Food Supplement Program Outreach Plan submitted to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Once included in the Food Supplement Program Outreach Plan and approved by FNS, the nonprofit would be able to submit invoices to DHR to be reimbursed for roughly up to 50 percent.

What you need to do:

- ✓ Talk to DHR about being a subgrantee to the state without state funds.
- ✓ Make sure that you have a non-federal source of funds for your share of the work.
- ✓ Prepare a budget based on the templates provided by USDA.
- ✓ Prepare a draft work plan based on the information provided by USDA.

Decisions and timeline:

- Proposals must be submitted by July 15, 2009.
- DHR will make the final decisions as to which proposals will be included in its Food Supplement Program Outreach Plan.
- DHR will submit their proposal to FNS by August 15, 2009.
- FNS will provide approval by September 30, 2009.

Key Contacts

- For sample templates and more information from USDA's FNS, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/guidance/stateplan.htm
- For more information, you can also visit the Hunger Hub on Maryland Hunger Solutions' Web site www.mdhungersolutions.org/hungerhub/index.shtm
- For specific information about how to submit a proposal, please contact Kay Finegan at kfinegan@dhr.state.md.us