

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging will distribute vouchers for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP.)

If you are a resident of Lackawanna County, 60 years of age or older by December 31, 2020 and meet all income guidelines, you are eligible to receive these vouchers.

This year EVERY participant must submit a fully completed application with signature for review, stating all information is correct, prior to receipt of the vouchers. The decision was made by the Department of Agriculture to use a written application for the 2020 program in order to comply with social distancing rules and to keep seniors as safe as possible.

Applications are being made available at municipal buildings and housing complexes throughout the county. Applications may also be requested and returned via email at LackawannaCountyAAA@gmail.com or returned via US Mail. Also, a contact less drop box will be made available in the first floor lobby of the Lackawanna County Government Center at the Globe.

Upon receipt of the fully completed application by the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging's staff, it will be closely reviewed to assure all information is in order and checks were not previously provided. Checks will then either be mailed or delivered to the home address of the participant.

Checks have increased to \$24 per set, or four checks each valued at \$6 each. One set of checks is allowed per person per year.

Income is all total income including Social Security, interest, wages, unemployment benefits, etc. Stimulus payments received this year will NOT be counted as income for this program.

Income guidelines:

1 Person Household	\$23,606
2 People Household	\$31,894
3 People Household	\$40,182
4 People Household	\$48,470
5 People Household	\$56,578

Vouchers may be used for FRESH fruits and vegetables grown in Pennsylvania. Recipients must sign or endorse in the Signature or Proxy block on the front of checks. A senior can still have a proxy visit the market on their behalf and no form is needed.

Processed foods and citrus/tropical fruits are not allowed for purchase with SMFNP checks.

Change is not allowed to be given by the farm stand or farm market employee when a check is spent for fresh produce.

Distribution of SMFNP voucher checks will end on September 30, 2020 or when the supply is exhausted. Checks are given out on a first come/first serve basis.

Recipients have until November 30, 2020 to use the checks at farm stands or farm markets.