



2017 Participant Rights & Responsibilities

2017 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **I have been advised and understand my rights and responsibilities under the SFMNP. I certify that the information I have provided for my eligibility determination is correct to the best of my knowledge.**
- Standards for eligibility and participation in the SFMNP are the same for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
- Everyone has the right to a fair hearing and may appeal the denial of benefits based on eligibility. Individuals may not appeal when the reason for denial is there are not enough funds for every applicant to participate or SFMNP booklets are not available.
- To file Civil Rights discrimination complaints, eligibility appeals or any other complaints about the program, please contact your local Area Agency on Aging.
- SFMNP check purchases are limited to fresh fruits, vegetables, honey and edible herbs which must be purchased at Certified Farmers' Market sites by November 30, 2017.
- When purchases are less than \$4.00, farmers may add fresh fruits, vegetables or edible herbs to bring the sale up to the value of the check. Monetary change for sales less than \$4.00 is not allowed.
- Checks cannot be exchanged for cash and can only be transferred to a designated proxy.
- Farmers may accept cash or food stamps to cover purchases over the checks' value.
- Farmers cannot accept checks that are torn, altered or missing serial numbers.
- Lost or stolen check booklets cannot be replaced, but should be reported to your local service provider or the Farmers' Market Manager.
- Farmers cannot discriminate against SFMNP participants in price, quality of produce, or service.
- Anyone committing fraud or abuse in connection with the SFMNP is liable to prosecution under applicable federal, state and local laws.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.