

Financial Assistance & Incentive Programs

Options for Alaska's Farmers Markets (updated 11/2021)



General Information/ Resources:

- [Farmers Market Coalition - Farmers Markets Increase Access to Fresh, Nutritious Foods](#)
- Alaska Farmers Market Association - [AK Food Access Programs](#)
- [State of Alaska Farmers' Market Nutrition Assistance Programs](#)
- Project for Public Spaces: [Farmers Markets as a Strategy to Improve Access to Healthy Food for Low-Income Families and Communities](#)

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is designed to provide low-income seniors with fresh produce. Generally, those over 60 years of age with income of no greater than 185% of the poverty line qualify for benefits.

"Each eligible person receives a sheet of 6 coupons worth a total value of \$30.00 for the summer growing season. Coupons can only be used to buy Alaska grown produce and honey at authorized farmers' markets, farm stands and/or farms. The farm stand at the market will have a sign saying they accept WIC and Senior Farmers' Market coupons. Farmers cannot give you change for your unused benefits and you cannot use coupons at a grocery store."

- [Alaska Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#)
- [National - Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#)

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The WIC program provides assistance to families of varying need and structure—married or unmarried, foster parents, mothers-to-be, etc.

To qualify you must:

- Live in Alaska
- Have a nutritional need (WIC staff can help determine this)
- Are a pregnant or breastfeeding woman
- Have a child under 5
- Meet income guidelines. Working families may qualify, please click here for [WIC Income Guidelines](#).
- Are a foster parent (Foster children are eligible based on the child's income, not based on the foster parent's income. You will be asked to prove that you are the court appointed foster parent.)

- [Women, Infants and Children Program \(AK\)](#)
- [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) \(National\)](#)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Formerly known as Food Stamps, SNAP provides food benefits to low income individuals and families. Benefits come on the Alaska Quest Card, an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that can be used at grocery stores and farmers markets to purchase food items.

- <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/SNAP/default.aspx>
- [Future of Farmers Market Quest Program in Alaska](#) (2018 AFMA Report)\
- [U-Vermont - Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Farmers Market SNAP Incentive Programs](#)

SNAP matching at markets

There is no State of Alaska sponsored program, like those in [Washington](#). Here's [a link to a national campaign](#), listing 25 or so states that participate (not Alaska) There are a few markets the provide SNAP matching through crowdfunding and private donations, like the Homer Farmers Market (private donor) and [Kenai Local Food Connection](#) (grant).

- <https://marketmatch.org/about/how-it-works/>

EXAMPLE of How SNAP Market Match Works

1. Go to a participating market's information booth and tell them you'd like SNAP Market Match
2. Swipe your EBT card for the amount you want to spend
3. You will receive that amount in EBT tokens and the same amount in SNAP Market Match dollars.
Markets match \$40 or more per day, check with your local market for their daily match amount.
4. Shop for:
 - Fresh vegetables
 - Fresh fruits
 - Mushrooms
 - Fresh herbs
 - Seeds and plants that produce food (for example, tomato seeds or tomato plants)