**SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION (VOUCHER) PROGRAM**

The Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne & Wyoming Counties will be holding the annual distribution of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers provided by the United States and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the Departments’ top priority to ensure seniors can receive the SFMNP vouchers without fear of being exposed and, for this reason, the voucher distribution this year will be done completely by mail.

To be eligible for this program, you must meet all three requirements below:

* **Be a resident of Luzerne or Wyoming Co**.
* **Be at least 60 years of age by December 31, 2020**
* **Meet income guidelines based on 2020 Total Household Income**: (All income is included, i.e. Social Security, Pension, etc.) - Self declaration. Program officials may verify eligibility information.

 1 Person/Household - $23,606 or less

 2 People/Household - $31,894 or less

 3 People/Household - $40,182 or less

 4 People/Household - $48,470 or less

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Application shown with this press release must be completely filled out, signed by the eligible participant and then mailed or email to our agency. The distribution by mail will be done from June through September 30, 2020**----applications received after the deadline date of Wednesday, September 30th will not be accepted.** This year two participants can be included on one application as long as they live at the same address. EACH participant must complete their part of the application and BOTH signatures must be on the application, or it will not be processed. Proxy forms WILL NOT be required this year---you will be allowed to have someone pick up your fruits and vegetables in your place with the vouchers. It is important that your name and address are printed clearly and legibly in order to expedite the process of sending out the vouchers.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1. **Each qualifying individual is allowed four (4) $6 vouchers for a total SFMNP benefit**

 **of ($24) ONE TIME per program year.**

1. **A person is not eligible if he/she resides in a nursing home, convent or residential**

 **facility where meals are prepared.**

SFMNP applications are also available for pickup at any of our Active Adult (Senior) Centers listed; on AAA/Luzerne-Wyoming Counties’ agency website: [www.luzernecounty.org](http://www.luzernecounty.org) under Dept.-Area on Aging-News; and from your local legislature’s office.

The completed SFMNP Application can be either mailed to: Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne & Wyoming Counties, 93 N. State Street. Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18701 or emailed to Rhonda.Adams@luzernecounty.org. Walk-in or drop off applications will not be accepted because of social distancing restrictions.

Once the application is reviewed and approved, the (SFMNP) vouchers and pertinent information will be mailed to the participant. Please allow a few weeks for your application to be processed and for your checks to arrive in the mail.

Any questions may be directed to Rhonda Adams, SFMNP coordinator at 570 822-1159 Ext. 2337.