# SCNP Memo #2023-2024-82


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: May 23, 2024

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: 2024 Virginia Food for Virginia Kids Cohort Call for Applications

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SCNP) is accepting applications from school food authorities (SFAs) for the school year (SY) 2024–2025 Virginia Food for Virginia Kids (VFVK) Cohort. The [online application form](https://virginiadoe.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abfhNalfhqCaOgK) must be completed by Friday, June 14, 2024.

## Overview

The [VDOE-SCNP VFVK initiative](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/school-and-community-nutrition/virginia-food-for-virginia-kids) builds the capacity and commitment of Virginia school divisions to increase scratch cooking and serve more fresh, seasonal, and student inspired meals. The VDOE-SCNP is recruiting the third cohort of SFAs committed to operational change in these areas.

The SY 2024–2025 VFVK Cohort will be comprised of eight SFAs across the Commonwealth interested in, and dedicated to, school meal transformation. Ideally, the VDOE-SCNP will select one SFA from each of the eight Superintendent’s regions. This unique opportunity includes strategic planning, training, group discussion, and in-person technical assistance. The VDOE-SCNP has contracted the Chef Ann Foundation (CAF) to guide VFVK Cohort activities, which are outlined in Attachment A to this memo.

The VFVK Cohort activities will begin at the start of SY 2024–2025 and align with VDOE-SCNP workforce development initiatives and trainings to ensure every Virginia student has equitable access to good, healthy food at school. This is an exciting opportunity to work with other stakeholders and with the CAF team, which has guided over 13,500 schools through their transition to whole-ingredient scratch cooking.

## Application Process

Applications should be submitted via the [online application form](https://virginiadoe.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abfhNalfhqCaOgK) by Friday, June 14, 2024. The application questions and scoring rubric are included in Attachment B to this memo. An SFA’s commitment to implement operational change will be prioritized over its experience in the areas of scratch cooking, local procurement, and inclusion of student inspired meal offerings.

## For More Information

For more information, please contact Bee Thorp, VDOE-SCNP Lead Farm to School Specialist, via email at Brittany.Thorp@doe.virginia.gov.

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