Creating an FDP Application in TANS

Training Guide

This document is a training aid designed to provide guidance at each step as you progress through the TANS application creation process in the training sandbox.

This document is best viewed and navigated on-screen using the **Bookmarks** pane to navigate and the **Find** feature (ctrl+f) to search. Save a tree.

TRAINING OVERVIEW

Length	30 Minutes
Description	This document is designed to assist the user step-by- step as they create a program application in the TANS sandbox.
USDA Key Areas	
USDA Professional Standards Code	
Learning Objective(s)	How to create, submit, and modify a Food Distribution Program (FDP) application in the TANS system.

COMMON ACRONYMS

FDP	Food Distribution Programs
TEFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program
CSFP	Commodity Supplemental Food Program
FMNP	Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
SFMNP	Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
FND/F&N	Food & Nutrition Division
Organizations (Org)	The new term replacing Contracting Entity
SA	State Agency. This term applies to F&N teams within TDA that manage program eligibility, claims, and compliance.
TDA	Texas Department of Agriculture
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

SquareMeals.org	TDA Food & Nutrition Website	News, resources, and training for all 12 Food & Nutrition programs in Texas
CFR Regulations	TEFAP: 7 CFR Parts 250 and 251 CSFP: 7 CFR Parts 247 and 250 FMNP: 7 CFR Part 246, 248, and 2 CFR Part 200 SFMNP: 7 CFR Part 249	Code of Federal Regulations for FDP programs.
ThelCN.org	Institute of Child Nutrition Website	The ICN is the only federally funded national center dedicated to applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs.
Policy Handbooks	The Emergency Food Assistance Program Handbook Commodity Supplemental Food Program Handbook Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Handbook Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Handbook	TDA Program handbooks are available on SquareMeals.org.

Creating an FDP Application

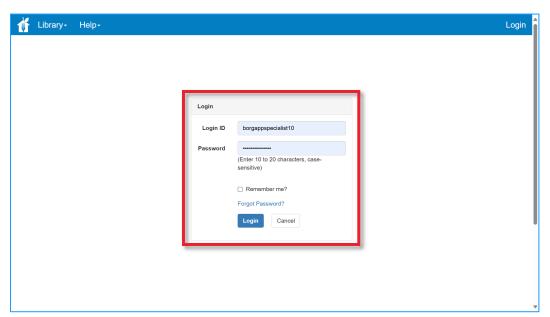
PROCEDURE

In the example scenario below, you have the TANS ORG Application security role and work for the non-profit, Abundant Baskets Community Food Bank. On behalf of your organization, you will apply to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for the 2026 program year to adequately serve your community's food needs.

Note: The purpose of this scenario is to guide you through the steps required to successfully submit an FDP application for a program. If TEFAP is not relevant to your organization, feel free to select any of the available programs, which are the Community Supplemental Food Program, Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

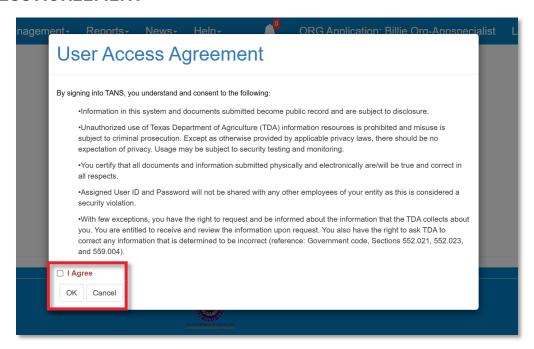
As we progress through the FDP application process, we will highlight the differences between TEFAP applications and applications for the other FDP programs.

LOGIN PAGE



Step	Action	
1.	Open the TANS sandbox page from the link: http://trainingtans.texasagriculture.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fapplications%2 FSponsorDashboard Note: You may want to add the page to your browser favorites.	
2.	Enter your assigned Login ID and Password . Note: As you type in the password, you can click the Eye icon to verify your password is correct.	
3.	Click the Login button.	

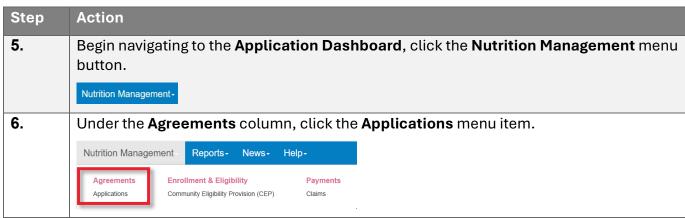
USER ACCESS AGREEMENT



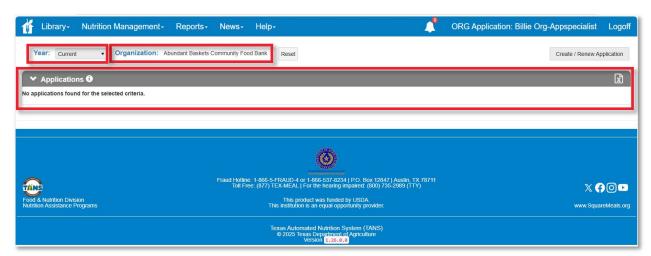
Step	Action
4.	If this is your first time logging into TANS, read the User Access Agreement carefully and when ready, select the I Agree checkbox and then click the OK button to continue.

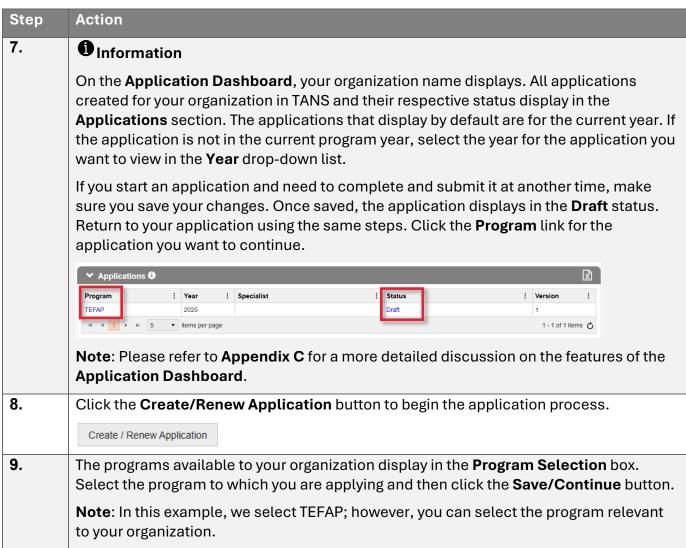
TANS HOMEPAGE





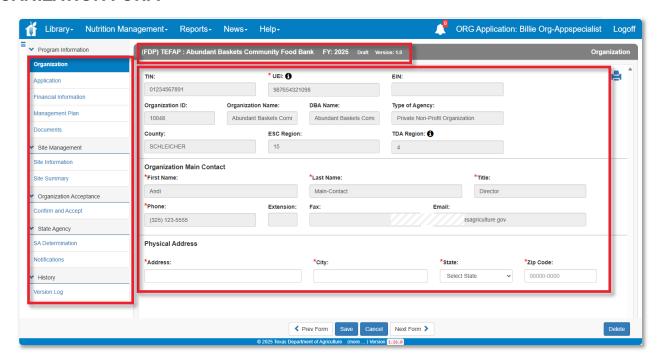
APPLICATION DASHBOARD

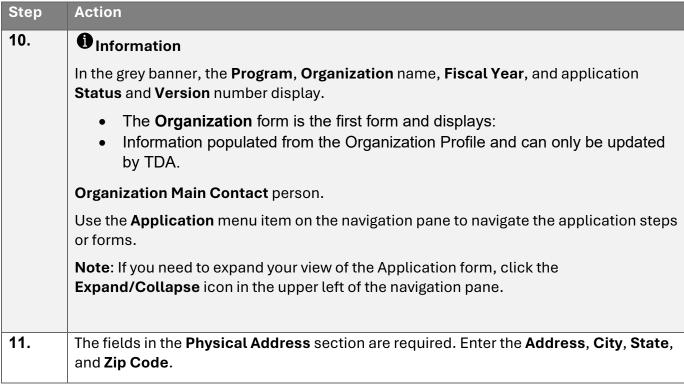






ORGANIZATION FORM







12. Use the buttons at the bottom of the form to navigate, save changes, and cancel changes made to the application.

Click the **Save** button and click the **Next Form** button to continue to the **Application** page.



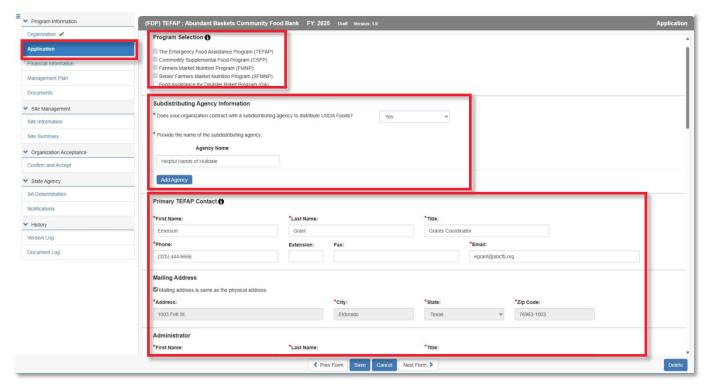
Note: Whenever you click **Save** in the application process, TANS validates your entries. If the data entered is valid, TANS notifies you with a green pop-up message that the save was successful.

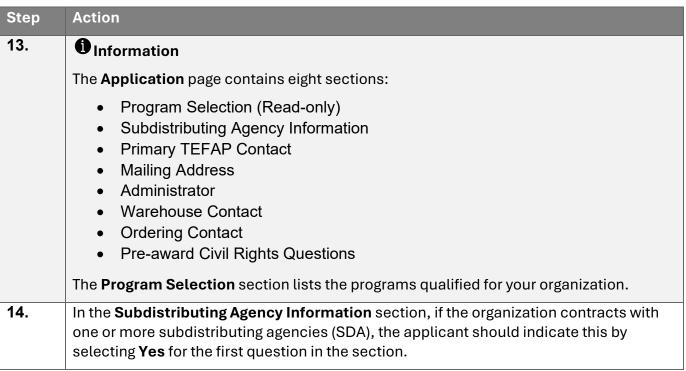


Also, forms that you visit and successfully save, display a green checkmark next to the form's menu item in the Navigation pane.



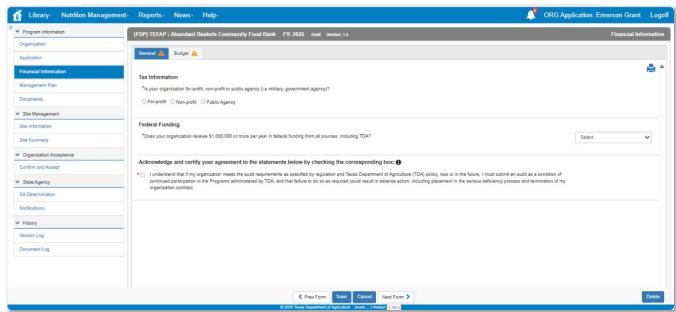
APPLICATION FORM

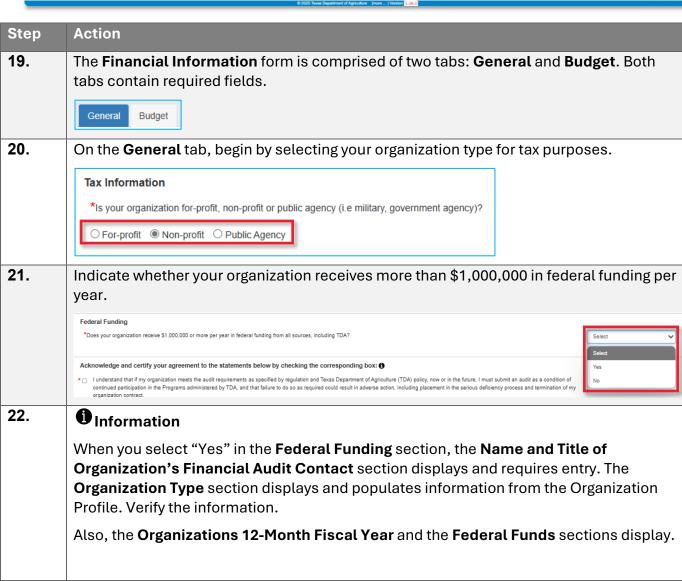


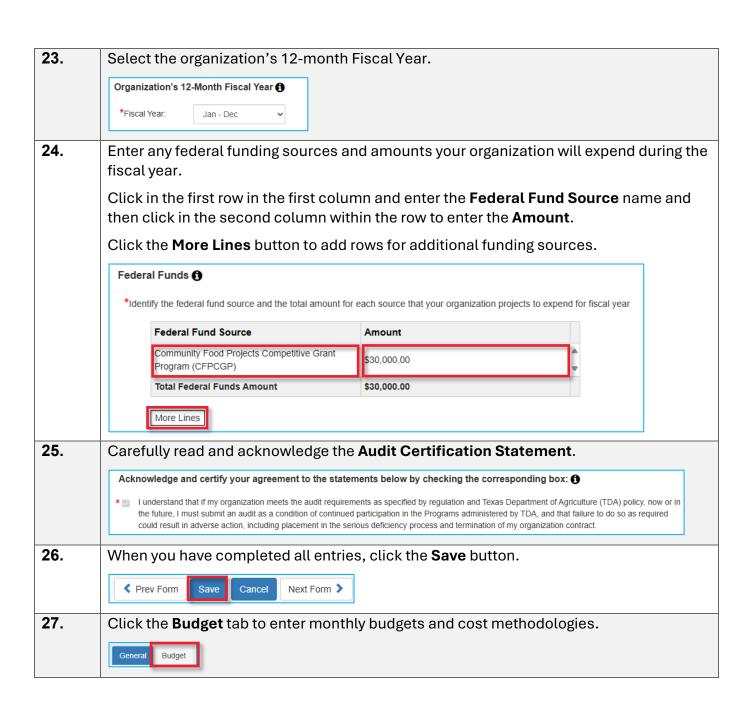


Selecting "Yes" displays the Agency Name field. Enter the agency's name and click the Add Agency button to add fields for more SDAs. **Subdistributing Agency Information** * Does your organization contract with a subdistributing agency to distribute USDA Foods? Yes * Provide the name of the subdistributing agency. Agency Name Helpful Hands of Hulldale Add Agency 15. In this example, enter the TEFAP contact information. Primary TEFAP Contact (1) *First Name: *Last Name: Tefapadmin Cameron Program Administration *Email: Tefapadmin@abcfb.org Note: For training purposes, you can enter fictitious information in the remaining fields on this page. 16. In the Mailing Address section, if the mailing address is the same as the physical address, select the checkbox to populate the remaining fields with the Site address. **Mailing Address** Mailing address is same as the physical address. *City: *Zip Code: 1003 Pelt St. 76936-1003 Eldorado Texas 17. **1** Information Continue entering contact information in the remaining fields. Make sure to complete all required fields (indicated by a leading, red asterisk *); otherwise, your entries will not pass validation, and the page will not save. 18. The last section on the form is the Pre-award Civil Rights Questions section. Complete all the questions and enter explanations where required. When you have completed all entries, click the **Save** button and then click **Next Form**. Prev Form Save Cancel Next Form >

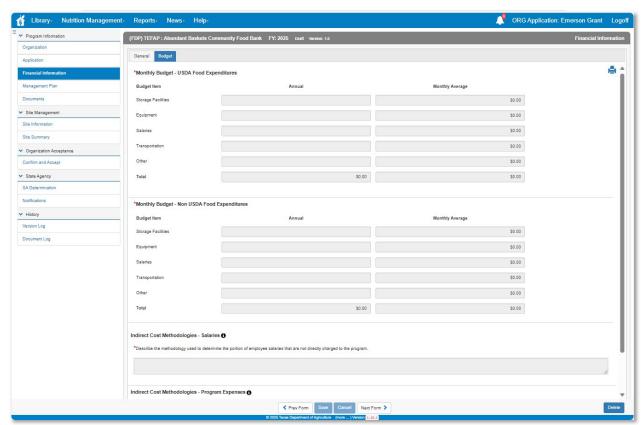
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM – GENERAL TAB

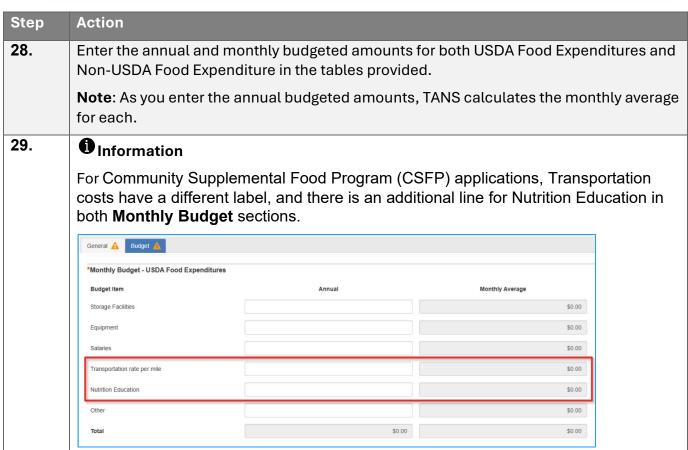






FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM – BUDGET TAB





Indicate and describe the methodologies used to determine indirect costs for employee salaries and program expenses at your organization.

Indirect Cost Methodologies - Salaries ()

*Describe the methodology used to determine the portion of employee salaries that are not directly charged to the program.

Abundant Baskets Community Food Back uses the Simplified Allocation Method as our federal funding is relatively small, and our organization serves one central function. Our employees maintain allowable labor costs by documenting their time accurately as actual hours worked across programs.

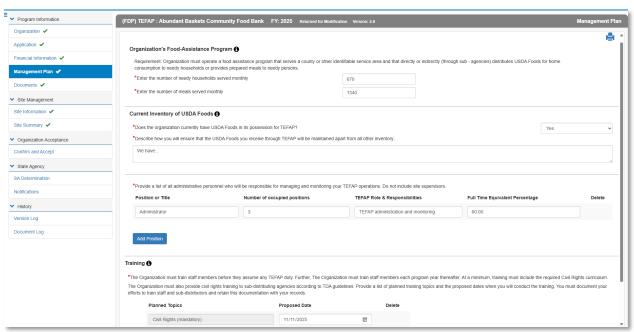
Indirect Cost Methodologies - Program Expenses ()

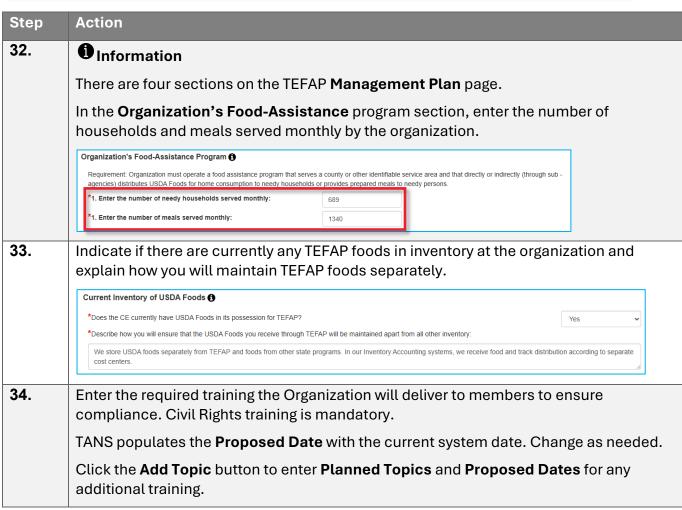
*Describe the methodology used to determine the indirect cost rates for program expenses.

Abundant Baskets Community Food Back also uses the Simplified Allocation Method to determine indirect cost rates for program expenses as our federal funding is relatively small, and our organization serves one central function.

When you have completed all entries, click the Save button and then click Next Form.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FORM





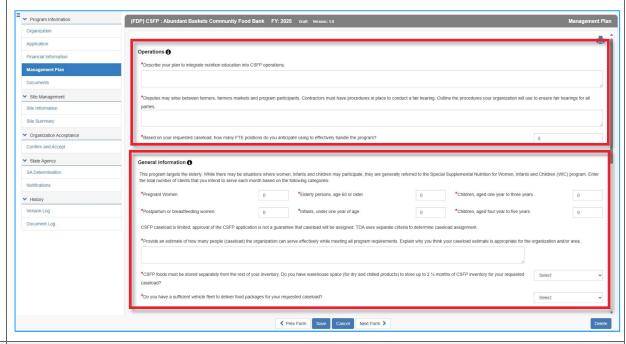


35. Information

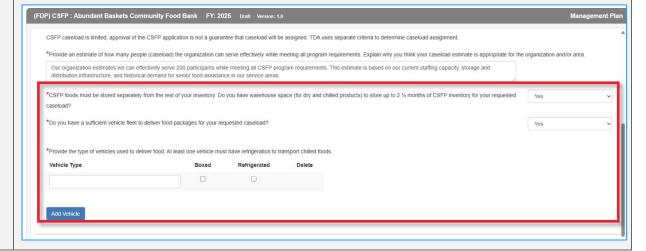
The **Management Plan** form in Community Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) applications has two additional sections: **Operations** and **General Information**.

CSFP questions pertain to nutrition education, dispute procedures, caseload, and demographic information regarding program clients.

The **Management Plan** form for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) have only the **Operations** section in addition, which is identical to the same section for CSFP.



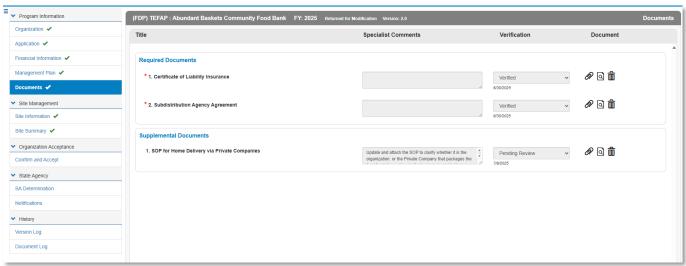
36. Other questions cover storage and delivery of CSFP foods.

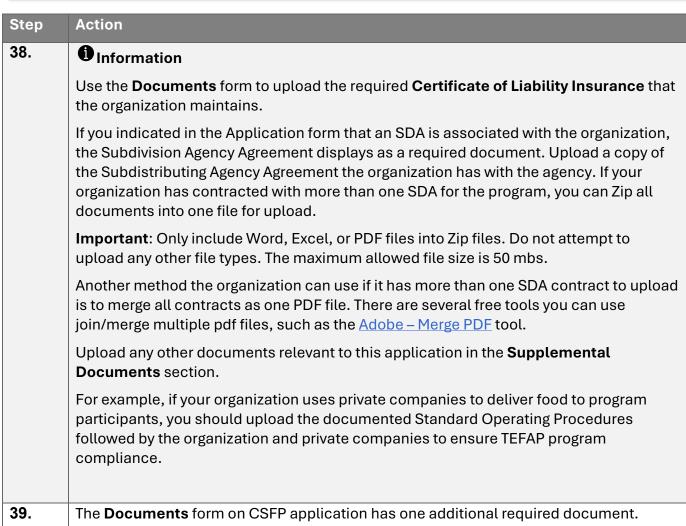


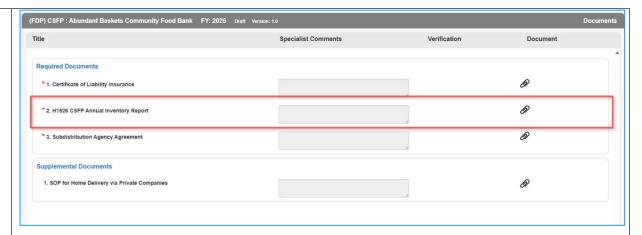
When you have completed all entries, click the **Save** button and then click **Next Form**.

Prev Form Save Cancel Next Form >

DOCUMENTS FORM







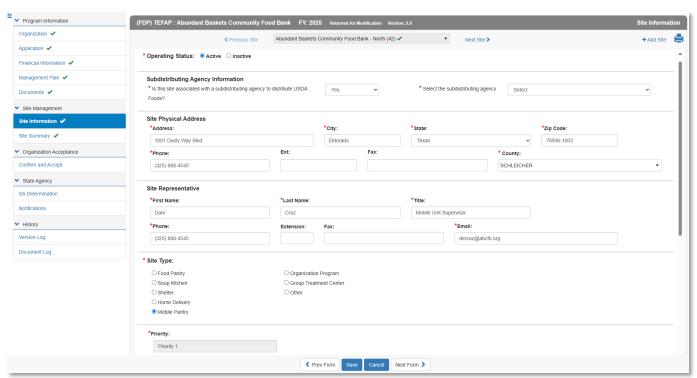
The **Documents** form on FMNP and SFMNP require no documents but allow for one optional document to upload, if necessary.

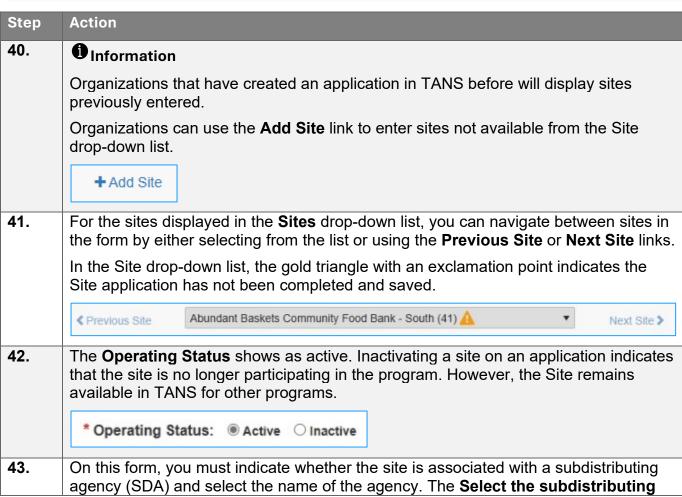


When you have completed all entries, click the **Save** button and then click **Next Form**.



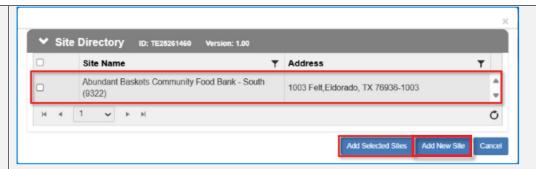
SITE INFORMATION FORM



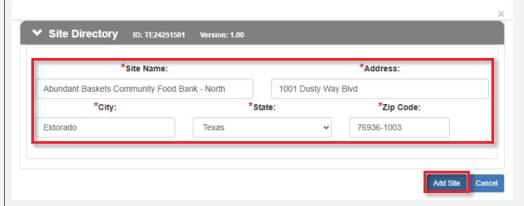


agency drop-down list displays only if you select Yes. This list contains all the agencies entered at the top of the **Application** form. Subdistributing Agency Information Foods? You must also enter the Site Physical Address, Site Representative, Site Type, the Dates of Program Operation, Operating Days, and Average Meals sections, and then enter the date when you have last verified the organization's Tax-Exempt Status. 44. When you select the Site Type, the **Priority** field automatically populates. This field cannot be edited. * Site Type: Food Pantry Organization Program O Soup Kitchen O Group Treatment Center O Shelter O Other O Home Delivery O Mobile Pantry *Priority: Priority 1 45. **1** Information The **Site Type** section for the Community Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), contain different selections as indicated in the screenshots below. **Community Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Site Types:** * Site Type: O Certification & Distribution O Distribution Only O Storage Only O Home Delivery Other Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and the Senior Farmers' Market **Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Site Types:** * Site Type: Certification/Issuance Site (voucher issuance only) Issuance & Redemption Farmers' Market O Redemption Only Farmers' Market O Roadside Stand Other 46. The **Start** and **End** dates of program operation should be the same as the program period for which you are applying. The program period for TEFAP and CSFP is from October 1st to September 30th of the following calendar year.

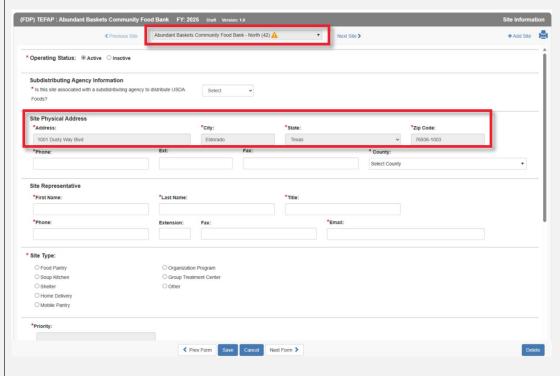
The program period for FMNP and SFMNP is from January 1st to December 31st of the same calendar year. Enter the **Start** and **End** dates of Program Operation. * Dates of Program Operation: *Start: *End: 繭 mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy 47. Select the Operating Days of the week. Use the **Every** dropdown list to select whether the operating days you select are for every week, or if the days apply to the first, second, third, fourth, or last week of the month. Enter the **Hours of Operation** for the week and days selected. Use the Add Additional Operating Days button to add more rows to capture differing weekly schedules, days, or hours of operation. *Operating Days: *Hours of Operation *Start: *End Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday ☐ Saturday 08:00 AM 05:00 PM 48. Enter the average meals and households served monthly. * Average Meals: Average meals served monthly: 700 Average households served monthly: 451 49. The Date of Last Verification of Tax-Exempt Status cannot be typed. You must select the date from the Date pickerby clicking the **Calendar** icon. For **TEFAP** and **CSFP**, the date must be within one year of the program year start, which is between October 1st of the year prior and September 30th of the current year. For **FMNP** and **SFMNP**, the date also must be within one year of the program year start, which is between Jan 1st and Dec 31st of the year prior to the program year. *Date of Last Verification of Tax-Exempt Status: 05/06/2024 繭 50. Once you enter the Date of Last Verification of Tax-Exempt Status and save the application, the site is complete. If there are more sites available in the Site drop-down list, display each and perform the same steps. If the site exists for another program, add it to the current program application by clicking the Add Site link, if needed. If the site(s) for your program application are not in the Site drop-down list, you can create a new site by clicking the **Add New Site** button.



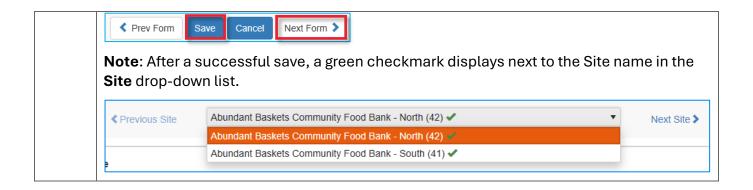
When creating an entirely new site, the **Site Directory** box displays fields where you can enter the new **Site Name** and **Address** information.



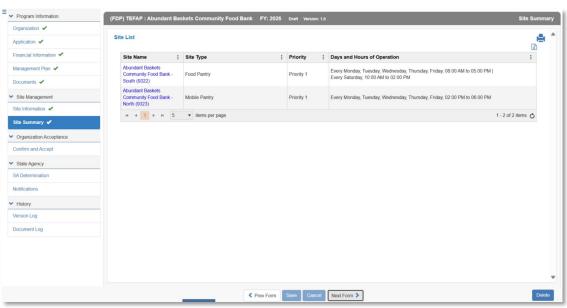
Once you click the **Add Site** button, the **Site Information** form updates for the new site. Enter all required information and complete the site as in the previous steps.

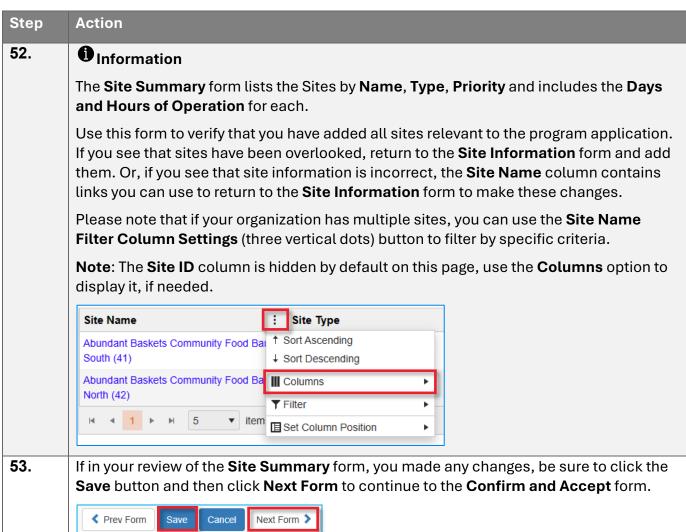


51. Make sure you save after adding each site to the application. Once you have added the final site, click the **Save** button and then click **Next Form**.

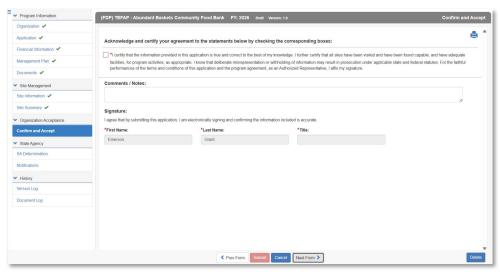


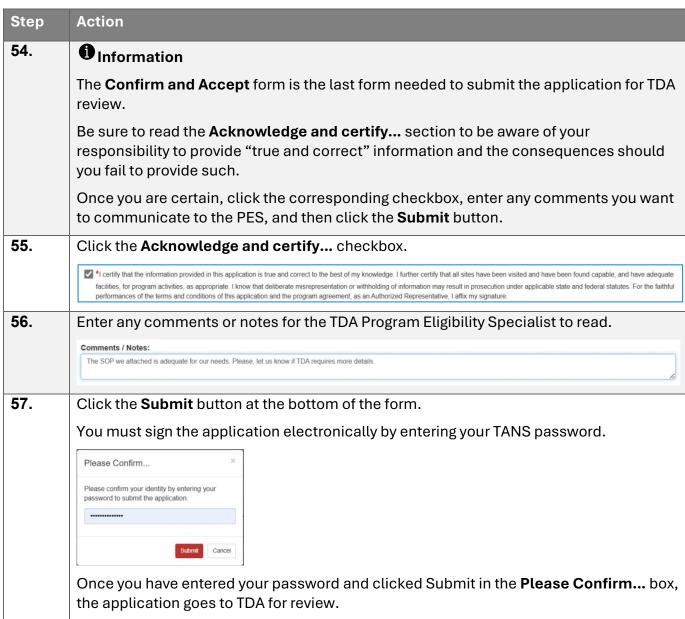
SITE SUMMARY FORM





CONFIRM AND ACCEPT FORM

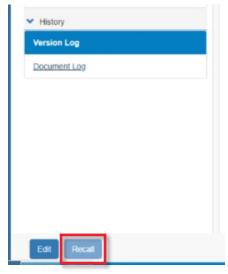




After Application Submission: Next Steps

RECALL AND EDIT BUTTONS

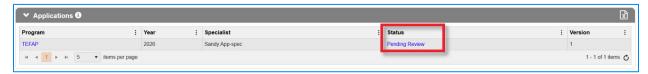
If the organization needs to make a change to the application after having submitted the application for TDA for review, the organization can request a recall of the application. Use the **Recall** button on the bottom left of the application to make the request. TDA will receive a notification that your organization has requested a recall and if the Application Specialist approves the recall, the application status will update to **Return for Modification** and the organization can update and resubmit the application.



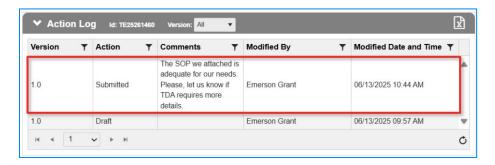
The **Edit** button becomes active once the application is approved. Use the **Edit** button to create an amendment to the application. See Appendix C for more information on this feature.

REVIEW THE ACTION LOG

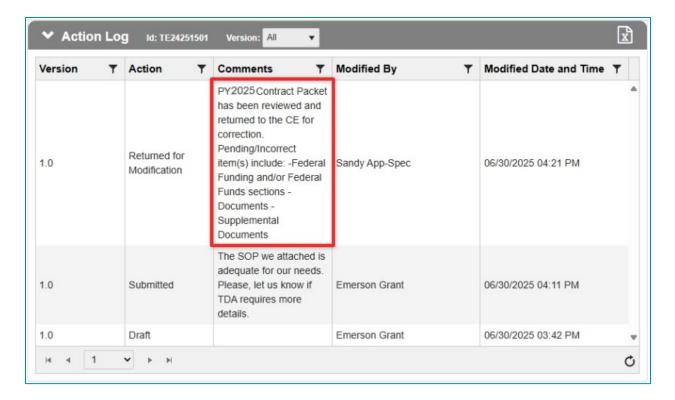
After you submit the application, the Application Dashboard displays and the application status updates to **Pending Review**.



Clicking the **Status** link opens the **Action Log**. The **Action Log** displays the comments you entered when submitting the application.

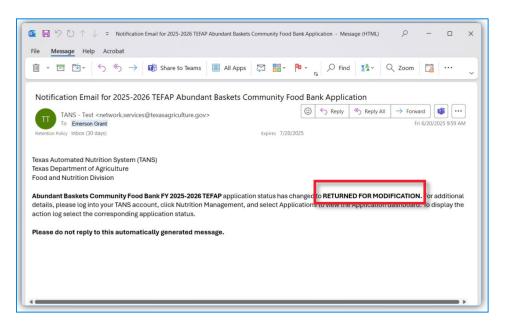


Also, check the **Action Log** for comments entered by TDA.

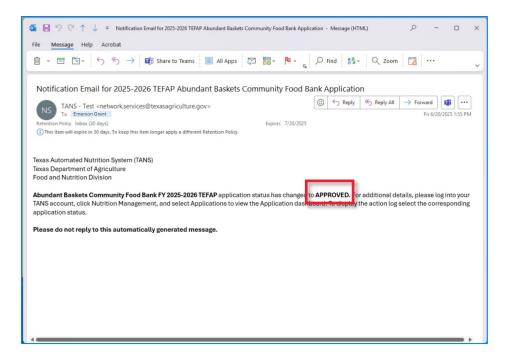


MONITOR INBOX FOR TDA MESSAGES

In this sample TDA message, TDA notifies the organization that the FDP application has been **Returned for Modification** and includes the instructions to review **Action Log** as in the screenshot above.



When TDA makes a final determination regarding the status of the application, the organization receives a notification.



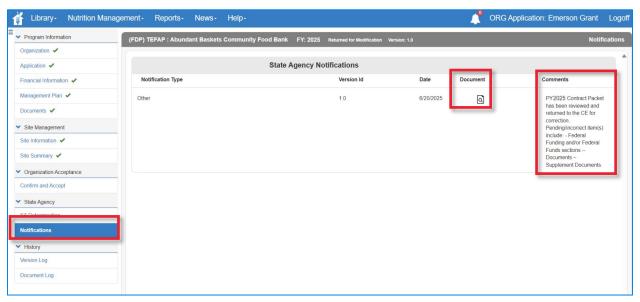
REVIEW THE NOTIFICATION FORM

If you receive a notification from TDA that requires action on your part, such as **Return for Modification**, TDA will provide instructions in greater detail on the **Notification** form.

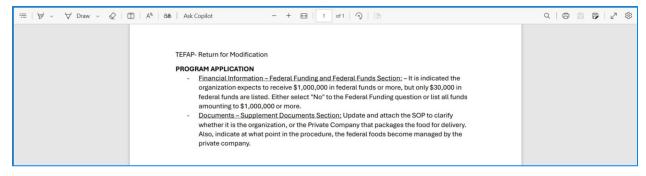
Open your application from the **Application Dashboard** and navigate to the **Notifications** form by using the **Navigation** pane.

The comment available in the Action Log will also display in the **Comments** column on the **Notifications** form. However, when TDA requires action from the organization, they will attach a document with more detailed information or instructions.

Open the document by clicking the **View File** icon.



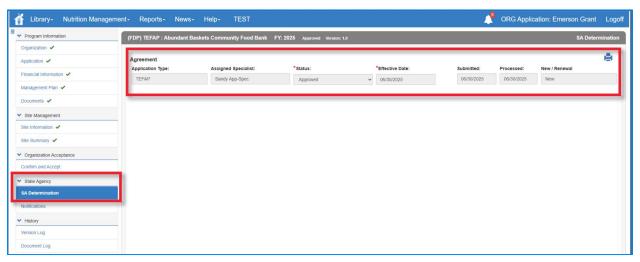
The document displays in a separate browser window. Follow any instructions provided by TDA, update your comments on the **Confirm and Accept** form, and then re-submit the application for approval.



REVIEW THE SA DETERMINATION FORM

When the State Agency (SA) makes a final determination on the organization's application, in addition to the email notification the applicant receives, the final determination is recorded in the application in the **SA determination** form.

Once approved and the program year begins, the organization can begin filing claims through the TANS claims process.



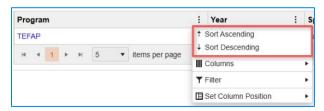
Appendix A: The Application Dashboard and Versions

When the organization has one or more applications listed on the dashboard, several features become available that help the organization access and track their applications.

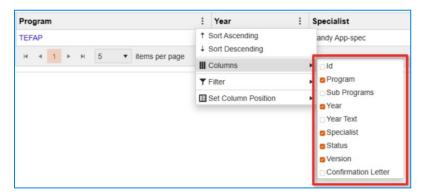
Each column in the table has a filter column settings icon (the three horizontal dots). The following is a closer look at the filtering tools available in the **Application Dashboard**.



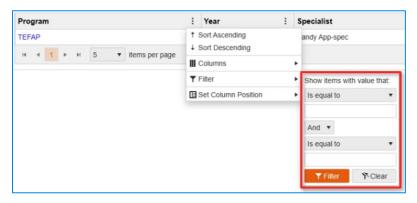
Use the **Sort** menu items to sort the applications by a specific column.



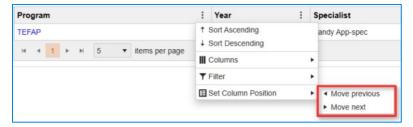
Use the **Column** tool to show or hide columns in the dashboard.



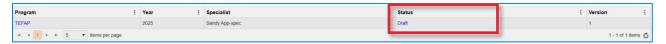
Use the **Filter** tool to filter the applications by a specific text in the column.



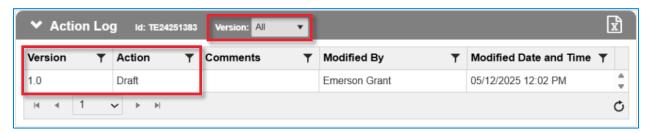
Use the **Set Column Position** to move columns right or left in the table.



The **Status** column displays the current status of the application, which in this example is **Draft**. Refer to Appendix B for a complete discussion on the status displayed in the dashboard.



The **Status** of the application functions as a link that opens the **Action Log** for the application. The **Action Log** lists each version and each status the application receives.



The initial version for an application is always 1.0, including when TDA approves or denies it. When the organization starts an amendment for an approved application, the version increments to the next major version (e.g., 2.0). When an application status is **Withdrawn** or **Incomplete** because it has not reached completion of version 1.0, the version is set to 0.1.

In the **Action Log**, to display only one version of the application and its statuses, use the **Version** drop-down list.

The current version also displays on the **Application Dashboard**.



By default, the **Application Dashboard** displays only five applications per page. You can increase this number by using the "items per page" drop-down. You can also use the **First**, **Previous**, **Next**, and **Last** icons to navigate the pages.



Appendix B: Application Workflow and Statuses THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Application Process

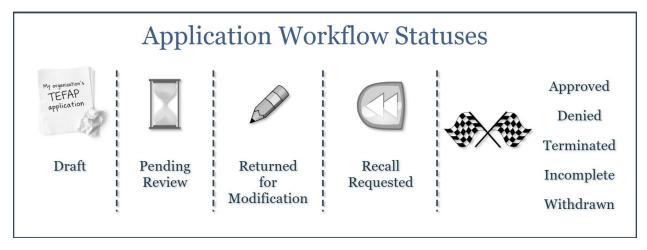


After the organization submits the application, the assigned TDA Application Specialist reviews the application.

The Application Specialist reviews the application to ensure all pertinent information is received and is compliant with TDA and USDA policies. If a correction is needed or additional information is required, the Specialist will return the application for modification. If the Application Specialist denies or terminates the application, the organization cannot submit any claims to the program for the year applied.

When TDA makes a determination on the application, the ORG Application user receives an email notification. If the application is approved, the organization can begin creating and submitting claims after the start of the program year.

APPLICATION STATUSES



After you start the application, it remains in the **Draft** status until submission to TDA.

As your application moves through the approval process, there are four review workflow statuses that display in the dashboard. These statuses are **Draft**, **Pending Review**, **Returned for Modification**, and **Recall Requested**.

There are four final statuses that can display once a State Agency (SA) makes a determination. These are **Approved**, **Denied**, **Terminated**, **Incomplete**, and **Withdrawn**.

Refer to the table below for an explanation of each status.

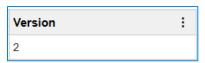
	Status	Description
Review Workflow	Draft	The application or amendment has been initiated by the organization.
	Pending Review	The application has been submitted for State Agency (SA) review.
	Returned for Modification	The application was returned to the organization by the PES for edits.
	Recall Requested	The organization has requested to recall the application for editing.
Final Determination	Approved	Based on USDA FNS requirements & SA review, SA determines application submission is eligible.
	Denied	Based on USDA FNS requirements & SA review, SA determines application submission is ineligible.
	Terminated	Based on USDA FNS requirements & SA review, SA determines the agreement between the SA and Organization is terminated.
	Incomplete	Applicant fails to provide information requested by SA based on application review or abandoned by the organization prior to determination.
	Withdrawn	The status displays as Withdrawn after the organization requests the SA to withdraw the application submission prior to making a determination.

Appendix C: Application Amendments

An application amendment is required when the organization needs to update the application, such as in updating contact information or modifying, adding, or removing sites. Amending an application sends the application back through the TDA approval process.

To begin the amendment, click the **Edit** button in the lower left. This button becomes active upon application approval. When you have updated the application and saved, the status of the application returns to **Draft**. The application will remain in the **Draft** status until submitted and becomes **Pending**

Review. Also, the application version iterates to "2." And once approved and if it is within the program year, the organization can file program claims based on the new amendment.



The version of application displays on the **Application Dashboard** and in **Action Log**. The **Action Log** lists each version and each status the application receives while the Application Dashboard only lists the most current version.