



DEC 17 2008

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) Eligibility Determination System Readiness

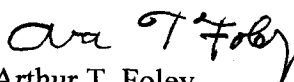
TO: All Regional Directors  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The D-SNAP Guidance released by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in 2008 requires that State agencies be able to enter information on all applicant household members and all denied applications into their D-SNAP eligibility determination systems and to perform duplicate participation checks against other D-SNAP cases and regular SNAP cases. FNS has learned that not all States have included these basic fraud deterrence and detection features in their system design and that some State systems have not yet been tested to ensure that they are functional in the event of a disaster.

FNS is asking our Regional Offices to ensure that by October 1, 2010 all of their State agencies have performed an initial test of their D-SNAP certification and issuance systems, whether those are distinct D-SNAP systems or a set of workarounds to be applied to regular SNAP eligibility systems, and that results indicate that the systems are designed to meet FNS requirements and are ready to operate in the aftermath of a disaster. The Regional Office need not be present for system testing, but can review a State's documentation of their system design and the test results. The Regional Office can perform the review of documentation either during a State Agency Operation Review (SAOR), at the time that a State's D-SNAP Plan of Operation is reviewed, or at any other opportunity, as long as confirmation of system readiness is reported to the National Office by October 1, 2010.

Regional Offices will also be responsible for ensuring that State systems continue to be ready to perform after that initial confirmation of readiness. FNS will not require annual testing of systems, but will require Regional Offices to take a risk-based approach to determine how frequently each individual State will need to retest. Criteria for retesting should at least include the initial construction of a new D-SNAP eligibility determination system, and the modification of an existing system, but may also include other events that the Regional Office determines warranting retesting.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Daigle Katz at 415-705-1323, ext. 304.

  
Arthur T. Foley  
Director  
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