

Operations Memorandum - Food Stamps

OPS090503

May 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Renaming the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has officially changed the name of the Food Stamp Program (FSP) to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. This change is effective immediately.

BACKGROUND

Section 4001 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P. L. 110-246), known as the Farm Bill, renamed the federal FSP to SNAP effective October 1, 2008. The US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), immediately began phasing in the new name on their website, correspondence and outreach material. FNS changed the name of the FSP partly because benefits are distributed through electronic benefit debit cards rather than coupons, and to reflect more focus on nutrition.

DISCUSSION

Upon publication of this Operations Memorandum, DPW will phase in the name change by using both SNAP and FSP when referencing the program in correspondence. SNAP will be used when revisions are made to applications, forms, client notices and the Client Information System. In addition, the DPW website and the FS Handbook title, as well as all Food Stamp Handbook Chapters, will be changed to SNAP as soon as possible. The content of the Handbook Chapters will be updated as they are revised.

CAOs will begin using the SNAP name when communicating with clients and community partners. CAOs are encouraged to view and print SNAP outreach documents on the FNS website at <http://foodstamp.ntis.gov/download.aspx>.

To order the documents directly from FNS, click on "Go to Ordering Center" and place your order. The SNAP FNS-313-E is the English version of the SNAP brochure and includes questions and answers about program eligibility and benefits. The SNAP brochure will be accompanied by a separate order of inserts that provide income limits and maximum benefit levels effective April 1, 2009.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share this information with all staff
2. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the SNAP Handbook is updated.
3. Refer all questions to your Area Manager.