

-Revised 11/21/08-

Operations Memorandum - Food Stamps OPS080702

July 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Waiver of the Interview Requirement for Elderly or Disabled Food Stamp Households Interviewed by a Community-Based Organization (CBO)
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has renewed the waiver concerning the interview requirement for households where all members are elderly or disabled with no earned income ~~effective August 4, 2008~~, the application interview by the CAO may continue to be waived if:

- The application is submitted by a **contracted** CBO on behalf of the food stamp (FS) household; and
- The CBO interviewed the household, either face-to-face or by telephone, and ~~provided to the CAO~~ **has been provided** all the necessary verification; **, either by the household or the CBO;** and
- All members of the FS household are elderly or disabled and have no earned income.

Discussion

~~The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,~~ **FNS originally** approved the Department of Public Welfare's request to waive the interview requirements of 7 CFR 273.2(e) for households in which all members are elderly or disabled with no earned income **on December 3, 2004. This waiver was implemented with Operations Memorandum 04-08-01, Elimination of Face-to-Face Interview Requirement for Elderly or Disabled Food Stamp Households.** This waiver was requested because it ~~will reduce~~ **reduces** the burden of having multiple interviews and increase access to the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Instead of the interview being conducted by the CAO, the interview ~~would be~~ **is** conducted by one of the **contracted** CBOs found in [Attachment A](#). **These CBOs were contracted effective July 1, 2007.**

Under this waiver, the CBO must indicate on the application that they completed an interview with the household, and they must provide all verification. The application must include the CBO provider number.

The CAO will complete the application interview if the household requests an

interview, or if the information provided by the CBO is questionable.

The CAO is responsible for determining the household's eligibility for the FSP and benefit level. The CAO will use the "w" interview indicator on CABUDG in the Client Information System for any applications processed under this waiver.

Next Steps

1. Review this information with all appropriate staff.
2. Please contact your Area Manager with any questions.
3. This Operations Memorandum remains in effect until rescinded.