

FY 2007 Food Stamp Program Participation Grants

On September 20, 2007, the FNS announced the awardees of the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Food Stamp Program Participation Grants. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) (the Farm Bill) authorized the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to award \$5 million dollars in grants for FY 2003 through FY 2007. These grants are targeted to State agencies, public health or educational entities, or private nonprofit entities such as community-based or faith-based organizations, food banks, or other emergency feeding organizations. The grants are specifically for projects aimed at simplifying the food stamp application and eligibility determination systems or improving access to food stamp benefits by eligible households. See below for descriptions of the FY 2007 projects.

Oregon Department of Human Services will simplify the food stamp application process and improve program access with the purchase of Forms Factory software to create an on-line application that will be accessible at various community sites.

Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will develop and implement a new online application process that will be accessible at local food banks and senior citizen centers throughout the State. One urban food pantry, one rural food pantry and one rural senior citizen center will participate in an access point pilot before State-wide-roll-out which is scheduled to begin November 2008 through April 2009.

Vermont Department for Children and Families will develop and implement a state-of-the-art document imaging and indexing system, an automated telephone help line with an automated voice response system and an online web-based application.

Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government will pilot an online benefits tool in Jefferson County and use staff in community-based organizations to perform application assistance, to collect and scan supporting documentation and to submit both to the local food stamp office.

Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) will implement a state-wide, web-based, interactive application program. The project is designed to allow access at any location where the Internet can be accessed including public libraries, kiosks in malls as well as the remote locations of the MDHS.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare will develop, test and implement a process that will permit individuals to scan verification documents and attach them to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) online application.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will develop and implement a paperless food stamp case file system, an online application that can be submitted electronically to local food stamp offices, and an education campaign about the new application process.

