



**Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program**

Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

**Outreach Coalition
Webinar
October 23, 2008**

Outline

- Welcome and Introductions
- Key Farm Bill Provisions
- Name Change
- Next Steps for the Outreach Coalition
- Questions and Comments



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Welcome and Introductions

- Duke Storen
- Laura Griffin
- Art Foley
- Moira Johnston



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Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

aka “The Farm Bill”

Combat Pay

- Excludes combat-related military pay from consideration as income
- Places current policy in permanent statute
- Implemented October 1, 2008



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Dependent Care Deduction

- No limit on dependent care deductions
- Implemented October 1, 2008
- How implemented?
 - State agencies must notify eligible households
 - Individually (i.e. at redetermination)
 - Mass change (i.e. when total dependent care expenses are in system)



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Standard Deduction

- Minimum standard deduction = \$144
- Indexed to Consumer Price Index in FY2010
- Affects:
 - 60% of elderly
 - 33% of participants in households with earnings
 - 30% of participants in households with children
- Implemented October 1, 2008



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Resource Limit

- Indexed to Consumer Price Index
 - Increases rounded down to nearest \$250
 - At current inflation rate, no increases soon
- Implemented October 1, 2008
- Who gains eligibility? Of total:
 - Nearly 75% in households with children
 - Over 45% in households with earnings



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Retirement and Education Savings

- Excludes tax-deferred retirement or education accounts from countable resources
- Implemented October 1, 2008



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Minimum Benefit

- Increases minimum benefit
 - 8% of Thrifty Food Plan maximum allotment for a household of one
 - \$14 in FY 2009
- Implemented October 1, 2008



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Minimum Benefit

- Who is affected?
 - Slightly more than half of all persons with increased benefits are in 1-person households
 - Slightly less than half of all persons with increased benefits are in 2-person households
 - Of all households receiving the minimum benefit nearly half contain elderly members
 - Of all households receiving the minimum benefit nearly 40 percent contain disabled non-elderly members



Simplified Reporting

- Option to extend SR to migrant, homeless, and elderly/disabled HHs as long as the period between reports or recertifications is not :
 - Under 4 months for migrant or homeless HHs
 - Under 1 year for elderly/disabled HHs
- May implement starting October 1, 2008
- SR now available to everyone



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Transitional Benefits

- Extends transitional benefits to households leaving a State-funded cash assistance program (currently only offered to households leaving TANF)
- May implement starting October 1, 2008



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Healthy Incentives Pilot

- Do incentives at the point-of-sale increase the purchase of fruits, vegetables or other healthful foods by SNAP participants?
- Number and timing of competitions TBD
- \$20 million over 5 years



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As of October 1, 2008,

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
is the new name for the
federal Food Stamp Program

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 is now
The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

Why a name change?

- Focus on nutrition
- Fight stigma
- Reflect the modern program of today
- Requests by States
- Changes in State names



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SNAP Name

- Reflects changes we made to meet the needs of our clients
 - Focus on nutrition
 - Increase in benefits
- Through partners, clients learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices
- SNAP is good for communities (economic multiplier effect)



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Do States have to change their names?

- Encouraged but not required
 - Opportunity to promote messages about healthy eating to customers
- Using the name Food Stamp Program does not reflect the modern program of today
 - Over time, there will be no references to FSP



What do clients need to know about the name change?

- New name, improved Program
- No new paperwork
- Benefits are used the same way
- Nutrition education available through partners
- State names may be different



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How are we spreading the word?

- Press release
- Staff resource kit
- Letters
- Web pages
- Retailer notice
- Announcements on toll free numbers
- Inserts with publication orders



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Resources Available

- Questions and answers
- Fact sheets
 - English and Spanish
- Publication insert
- Newsletter articles
 - Short and long
- Label for publications
 - English and Spanish



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What next?

- Complete web site transition (by 12/31)
- Update forms and publications
- Reproduce radio and television PSAs and similar items
- Reinforce messages continuously
- Develop support materials as needed
- Work with undecided and FSP States



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Help us Spread the Word

- Educate your clients
- Educate your partners
- Talk to your community
- Publish a newsletter article
- Update your website
- Update your publications
 - Use labels in the meantime



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Next Steps for the Coalition

- Meeting Options
 - Webinar series (quarterly or more frequently)
 - Spring full-day meeting
- Topics for Discussion
 - Debrief efforts related to seniors and Hispanics
 - Funding options and opportunities
 - Profile of on-line tools
 - Other?
- Joining the Outreach Coalition
 - Susan.Sheets@fns.usda.gov or 703.605.0037



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Thank You!

Questions? Comments?



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