

NOTE: If State agencies plan to adopt the work age exemptions for TANF/FSP households in this mini-SFSP, it must indicate its intention in this letter.

Regional Food Stamp Director
ADDRESS

Dear _____:

We are writing to notify the Food and Nutrition Service of our intent to implement a mini-Simplified Food Stamp Program (mini-SFSP). The mini-SFSP option allows us to replace Food Stamp Program (FSP) work rules with work rules from our Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. This will permit us to include the value of food stamps in determining maximum hours of work under TANF.

New rules from the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) allow States to “deem” families who work the maximum number of hours permitted under Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) minimum wage rules, but still fall short of the 20-hour core activity requirement, as having met that requirement. The mini-SFSP will allow us to count the value of food stamps and then “deem” any hours that fall short of the standard and the TANF work experience or community service program can serve in place of the FSP workfare program.

Specifically our mini-SFSP will do two things. First we are replacing the FSP work requirement with the TANF workfare requirement. This means that we will replace our FSP work obligation rules with that of our TANF work obligation rules which results in joint TANF/FSP households being required to meet their TANF work obligation (i.e. it will become their FSP obligation). Secondly, we will combine the FSP and TANF benefit together when calculating the maximum number of hours that a TANF/FSP household can work while meeting the conditions established by the Department of Labor’s interpretation of the FLSA.

We understand that SFSP programs must be cost neutral according to Section 26 of the Food Stamp Act. Because our program only replaces the FSP workfare obligation with the TANF work experience obligation, there is no impact on federal costs.

We also understand that we may not use any Federal Food Stamp E&T Program funds to serve TANF/food stamp recipients. Section 6(d)(4)(K) of the Food Stamp Act provides that the amount of Federal E&T funds a State agency uses to provide services to participants who receive benefits from a State program funded under title IV-A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is limited to the amount of Federal E&T funds the State agency expended in fiscal year 1995 to provide services to title IV-A recipients.

Your timely consideration of our request is appreciated. Contact _____ if you have any questions about our plans.

Sincerely,