

## **FY 2010 Increasing SNAP Participation among the Extra Help Population Grants**

On September 17, 2010, FNS announced the awardees of the Fiscal Year 2010 Increasing SNAP Participation among the Extra Help Population Grants. These grants were available to State SNAP agencies to develop innovative projects that would attempt to increase low-income elderly participation in SNAP. Brief descriptions of the projects are below.

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**The Washington Department of Social and Health Services** received funding to conduct outreach in two counties. Washington's activities include a simplified application for seniors, intensive media campaign, targeted mailings, follow-up through phone calls and home visits, and a mobile SNAP office. The State will mail information to MSP recipients who do not receive SNAP, including information on how to shop, what can be bought with \$16, and how benefits can be saved for holiday meals. Washington will also hire a contractor to help create a simplified application for the MSP and Extra Help population in many languages. The simplified application that Washington creates could be used as a model for other States looking to increase the number of MSP or Extra Help applicants that receive SNAP.

**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare** received funding to conduct a deemed eligibility pilot. Pennsylvania's project builds upon a current partnership between Benefits Data Trust (BDT) and the PA Department of Welfare to streamline the SNAP application and fast-track the eligibility process to increase enrollment in SNAP among low income elderly adults. Pennsylvania plans to conduct outreach and application assistance in rural areas, deem individuals eligible for SNAP using MIPPPA data, contact those who are deemed of eligibility, and collect additional information on expenses and household size to determine benefit amount. The pilot appears to understand which eligibility requirements can be deemed and which require additional information. Pennsylvania already has developed the shortened application and attached it to its proposal.

**New Mexico Human Services Department** received funding to conduct a deemed eligibility with standardized benefit pilot. The pilot will deem certain eligibility factors, create a simplified application, standardize the medical deduction, and target only those households that contain individuals or couples with no earned income. The State will have two standard benefits based on high and low shelter costs. New Mexico's design is simple, clean, and very similar to its Combined Application Project (CAP). Under this pilot, the household will be sent a simplified application once it is deemed eligible, at which point the household can opt out of the pilot if it so chooses.