

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

WHAT IS AN IMPROPER PAYMENT?

An **improper payment** in SNAP can occur for the following reasons:



Incorrect amounts paid to an eligible recipient



Payments made to a recipient incorrectly determined as eligible



IMPROPER PAYMENTS INCLUDE BOTH OVERPAYMENTS AND UNDERPAYMENTS



Due to rounding, the payment error rate may not always equal the sum of the overpayment and underpayment error rate.

WHAT CAUSES IMPROPER PAYMENTS IN SNAP?

AROUND 52% STATE AGENCY ERROR



ERRORS IN APPLICATION PROCESSING & DATA MATCHING

Eligible recipients could receive over- or underpayments, or ineligible recipients could receive wrongful payments, due to errors in processing applications or data matching.

AROUND 48% RECIPIENT ERROR



FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE & TIMELY INFORMATION

Recipients are required to timely report changes to earnings, expenses, and assets.

ACTIONS TO REDUCE IMPROPER PAYMENTS IN SNAP

State agencies with high error rates are required to develop corrective action plans to address the root causes of their improper payments. Below are actions the Food and Nutrition Service is taking with States to improve the integrity of SNAP.

FOR STATE AGENCY ERRORS



Enhancing technical assistance through the release of the “Keys to Payment Accuracy” handbook.



Elevating to chief executives for greater engagement.



Improving the connection between sources of error and corrective action plans.



Strengthening resulting consequences by withholding federal matching funds.

FOR RECIPIENT ERRORS



Helping recipients better understand reporting expectations.



Improving customer service to make it easier for recipients to report changes.



Requesting funding from Congress for electronic income verification to reduce burden on recipients.