



The Research Packet For  
**THE SNAP TASK FORCE**  
Meeting of January, 2020



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## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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## I. United States Department of Agriculture



### FNS Updates SNAP Keys to Payment Accuracy

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/notice-stakeholders-fns-updates-snap-keys-payment-accuracy>

#### Best Practices for States

Reflecting the responsibility that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) shares with state SNAP agencies to operate the program with integrity, today the agency released an updated edition of its [Keys to Payment Accuracy](#) information resources.

The Keys highlight best practices and provide strategies and opportunities enabling states to improve and maintain the accuracy of SNAP payments. The new version updates these strategic tools based on the experiences, needs, and challenges of state agencies to encourage a comprehensive approach to improving SNAP payment accuracy.

"The new edition of the Keys captures and shares best approaches in ensuring that SNAP participants receive accurate benefit levels – not too much, not too little – as the law requires," said Pam Miller, Administrator of FNS. "Congress and the American people expect USDA to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent as intended. The Keys are part of our continued commitment to work with states to ensure SNAP households are receiving proper benefits."

Under federal law, each state agency is responsible for monitoring its administration of SNAP, including payment accuracy, and preventing errors. Ensuring the accuracy of SNAP payments requires close collaboration among responsible partners. This includes those whose work directly impacts payment accuracy, those who must consider potential accuracy impacts in system development and upgrades, those responsible for monitoring and oversight, and top state and federal agency leadership. The Keys provide summaries and best practices for what FNS considers the 10 most important operational areas to assist states in maintaining and improving payment accuracy:

- *Call Centers*
- *Case Reviews*
- *Communication*
- *Corrective Action Plans*
- *Data Analysis*
- *Modernization*
- *Organizational Culture (Leadership)*
- *Policy Options and Waivers*
- *State Systems*
- *Training*

## **Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Highlights 2019 Accomplishments**

**<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/fns-001719>**

(Washington, D.C., December 19, 2019) – Deputy Under Secretary Brandon Lipps today highlighted the agency's many accomplishments over the past year to leverage our nation's agricultural abundance to ensure every American has access to wholesome, nutritious food, even when they face challenging circumstances. FNCS continued its focus on customer service and integrity, with an eye toward helping more Americans move toward self-sufficiency.

FNCS also paved the way for some of the largest policy changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in recent history to promote employment, as well as made progress on the upcoming edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Improvements**

FNCS published three proposed rules and a final rule to reform SNAP, reflecting this Administration's commitment to improving the integrity and equity of SNAP, and expecting more able-bodied adult recipients to chart a path to long-term success and self-sufficiency. With the lowest unemployment rate in more than 50 years, now is the time for every work-capable American to find employment.

- [USDA to Restore Original Intent of SNAP: A Second Change, Not A Way of Life](#)
- [USDA Proposes to Close SNAP Automatic Eligibility Loophole](#)
- [USDA To Modernize SNAP Benefit Calculations](#)

## **II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

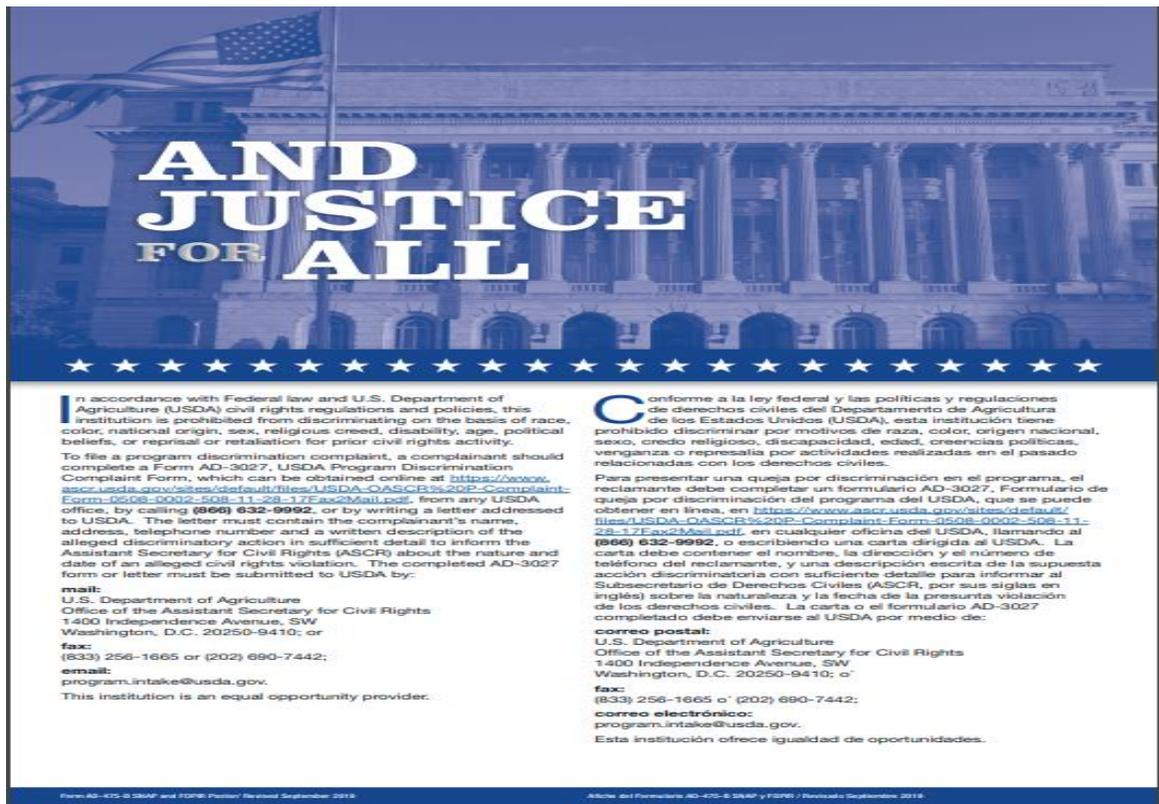


Temporary Assistance General Information System (GIS) New “And Justice for All” Poster

**<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2019/19DC055.pdf>**

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) is to introduce the new version of the AD475-B: "And Justice for All" posters (AJFA). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of the Assistant Secretary has revised the poster and instructed state agencies to halt distribution of the current AJFA posters (revised 12/15) featuring the Statute of Liberty. OTDA has received the revised AJFA poster (revised 09/19) and will distribute the posters to districts by mail.

Districts must continue to display the current AJFA poster (revised 12/15) until they receive the revised version. Upon receipt of the new poster, all previous versions of the AJFA posters must be immediately removed and replaced with the new poster.



## NY State of Health to SNAP Outreach

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2019/19DC056.pdf>

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) is to inform social service districts (districts) that the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has partnered with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to facilitate

access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing information through the New York State of Health (NYSOH) Marketplace. Individuals and families applying or recertifying for Medicaid coverage through the NYSOH Marketplace who appear to be income eligible for SNAP, and who are determined to be eligible for Medicaid, are given the opportunity to receive information about SNAP eligibility and about how to apply for SNAP.

Program Implications: Following the determination of Medicaid eligibility, the NYSOH online application presents language briefly explaining what SNAP is, informs the applicants that they may be eligible to receive SNAP benefits, and gives them the option to receive more information about SNAP. Applicants who choose to receive more information are required to enter their email address. NYSOH then sends an outreach email explaining that applicants can apply for SNAP online or by going to their local department of social services or local center. The email contains a link to either myBenefits or ACCESS NYC landing page based on the applicant's district of residence

Monthly Caseload Statistics –October 2019

<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2019/2019-10-stats.pdf>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program			
	This Month	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
	<b>2,576,099</b>	<b>-10,087 (-0.4%)</b>	<b>-151,363 (-5.5%)</b>
	<b>\$359,849,931</b>	<b>\$4.0 mil (1.1%)</b>	<b>-\$17.8 mil (-4.7%)</b>

Table 1  
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE CASES  
October 2019

Region	Cases				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	254,819	76,567	178,252	670,962	1,477,129
New York City	175,937	44,157	131,780	400,912	873,695
Rest of State	78,882	32,410	46,472	270,050	603,434

Table 2  
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS  
October 2019

Region	Recipients				
	Temporary Assistance by Program			Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
	Total	Family Assistance-FP	Safety Net Assistance		
New York State	469,024	175,341	293,683	670,962	2,576,099
New York City	321,738	103,426	218,312	400,912	1,492,469
Rest of State	147,286	71,915	75,371	270,050	1,083,630



### III. New York City Human Resources Administration

#### MEMORANDUM: Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS)

The purpose of this Center Director (CD) Memorandum is to inform Job Center staff that finger-imaging requirements for Cash Assistance (CA) USING Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS) will be eliminated effective January 15, 2020.

Staff must continue comply with current regulations and AFIS procedures until the close of business on January 14, 2020. Beginning January 15, 2020, finger imaging any member of a household applying for or receiving CA benefits will be prohibited. Current AFIS procedures will be revised to reflect the eliminating of finger imaging requirements.

## MEMORANDUM: ABAWD Signage

The purpose of this Center Director (CD) MEMORANDUM to inform the Far Rockaway Job Center 79 and the Far Rockaway SNAP center 79 that the attach signage ,Able Body Adults without Dependent Waiver Queens Community District 14, must be posted immediately .

The signage will be effective from January-March 2020

### **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Waiver Queens Community District 14**

**If you are an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) who lives in Queens Community District (CD) 14 (zip codes **11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11695, and 11697**) you are waived from having to meet the ABAWD requirements.**

**The ABAWD waiver is for the months of **January, February, and March of 2020.****

**Starting in April 2020, ABAWDs who reside in Queens CD 14, will be subject to the ABAWD work requirements. We will send you a letter before April to tell you more about this.**

### **Adviso de exención para Adultos sanos sin dependientes, Distrito Comunitario 14 de Queens**

**Si usted es un Adulto sano sin dependientes (Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) y vive en el Distrito Comunitarios (CD) 14 de Queens (código postal **11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11695 and 11697**) está exento de cumplir con los requisitos de trabajo de las personas ABAWD.**

**Esta exención de ABAWD rige para los meses de **enero, febrero y marzo de 2020.****

**A partir de abril de 2020, las personas ABAWD que vivan en el CD 14 de Queens, estarán sujetas a los requisitos de trabajo para las personas ABAWD.**

**Le enviaremos una carta antes de abril para proporcionarle más información.**

Policy Bulletin #19-60-OPE Introduction of the CUNY Food Insecurity Brochures9brc-1022)

The purpose of the policy bulletin is to inform Job Center and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center staff about a new brochure titled “CUNY FOOD INSECURITY BROCHURE” (BRC-1022 [E]) this brochure promotes the Access HRA app to CUNY students 18 to 30 years of age who are experiencing food insecurities.

**Need help buying food?**

Food insecurity means not having enough to eat or knowing where your next meal is going to come from. This is a concern for many students enrolled at CUNY.

While there are many reasons people may be food insecure, students many times find themselves juggling school, work and family responsibilities to meet their goals. But we're here to help. You might be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP provides a monthly benefit you can use to buy food at grocery stores, farmer's markets, even online.

**If you participate in a state or federal work study program, work an average of 20 hours a week, take care of a young child, or meet other qualifications, you may be able to receive monthly SNAP benefits – the best way to find out if you are eligible is to apply!**



**How to Apply**

Applying is easy with ACCESS HRA! You can apply right from your computer or mobile phone. Just go online to [nyc.gov/accesshra](http://nyc.gov/accesshra), or download the **ACCESS HRA mobile app**, and log in or create an account. The entire process can be done without leaving the comfort of your home.

**SNAP**

On ACCESS HRA you can:

- 1 Apply for and recertify SNAP benefits online.
- 1 Take photos of requested documents with your phone and upload them for your SNAP case.
- 1 Once you've submitted your online SNAP application or your recertification, and your supporting documents with the ACCESS HRA app, you can call to complete your interview. **Call 718-SNAP-NOW (718-762-7669), anytime between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.**

**Manage Your Case**

There's a lot more you can do with ACCESS HRA, including:

- 1 Check your application status and view scheduled appointments, including your eligibility interview.
- 1 Go to the 'Document' page to view the list of documents HRA has requested under 'Required Documents' and those already received under 'Case Record.'
- 1 Complete your SNAP periodic report online.
- 1 View your EBT balance and payments, make changes to your case, and update your contact information, language preferences, and more!
- 1 Sign up for text alerts for upcoming appointments, and due dates for any upcoming recertifications.
- 1 Read e-notices online, or sign up to go paperless.

**And more**

ACCESS HRA also lets you:

- 1 Submit a recertification application and upload documents for Cash Assistance.
- 1 Print a pre-filled Medicaid renewal form.
- 1 Sign up for a half-price Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, if you are eligible.



Go to ACCESS HRA at [nyc.gov/accesshra](http://nyc.gov/accesshra) on your phone or computer, or download the mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store!

NYC Department of Social Services – DSS

Important information regarding Fair Fares NYC  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fairfares/index.page>

We are proud to announce that open enrollment for Fair Fares NYC will begin in late January! Fair Fares NYC is a City program created by Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, and members of the City Council, to help low-income New Yorkers.

Beginning on January 27, 2020, New Yorkers will be able to check their eligibility for Fair Fares NYC and apply online at [nyc.gov/fairfares](https://nyc.gov/fairfares), or in person at a Fair Fares NYC office located in each borough. By using the Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, qualifying New York City residents receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares. Pay-Per-Ride, 7-Day (Weekly), and 30-Day (Monthly) Unlimited Ride options are all discounted.

Fair Fares NYC MetroCards work just like a regular MetroCard, but users can ride the NYC subway and eligible buses for half price (MTA Express Buses, the Long Island Rail Road, and Metro-North are not included). All Fair Fares NYC MetroCards come ready to have time and/or value added. When time is added to a Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, the cardholders will be charged half the current price for the 7-Day (Weekly) or 30-Day (Monthly) Unlimited Ride options. When money is added, the cardholders can choose the amount to add and half the current fare will be deducted when they swipe.

The program is open to New York City residents between (and including) the ages of 18 and 64, who do not have discount transportation from the City of New York or the MTA, and whose household income is at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for their household size. To learn more and check eligibility criteria, go to [nyc.gov/fairfares](https://nyc.gov/fairfares).

The City has launched a comprehensive campaign to ensure eligible New Yorkers across the five boroughs are aware of and able to access the program, including advertising on subways, buses, in bus shelters, community and ethnic newspapers, and online.

Fair Fares NYC began in early 2019 as a program for certain New Yorkers receiving Cash Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. In Fall 2019, this program was expanded to certain CUNY students, student Veterans, and NYCHA residents who meet the program's eligibility criteria. In the program's first year, we connected nearly 100,000 New Yorkers to this vital resource, helping them get where they need to go.



#### IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

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Daily News: A tale of two subsidies: Demonizing SNAP recipients and deifying the wealthy  
<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-a-tale-of-two-subsidies-20191221-rmbbpbz4fd2xcuu2lcijhalq-story.html>

In the midst of the holiday season, the Trump administration approved a rule that could force nearly 755,000 people off the food stamp rolls by tightening work requirements. The revised guidelines are designed to limit access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — the largest federal food nutrition program.

The new [rule](#), which affects able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 49 without dependents, will make it harder for states to waive a requirement that recipients work at least 20 hours a week in order to continue receiving benefits. It takes effect next April and would cut off approximately 50,000 food stamp recipients in the five boroughs, costing New York City's economy more than \$100 million a year in [lost benefits](#), resulting in more than \$150 million annually in lost business, city officials say.

### The New York Times –

#### How Cutting Food Stamp Can Add Cost Elsewhere

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/31/upshot/food-stamps-lower-health-care-costs.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=1931c92b-879d-466b-b5ab-eb03ff397984>

The USDA's new SNAP rule is intended to save almost \$8 billion over five years, but it's not clear how much money would actually be saved, given the costs that might come from a decline in the health and well-being of many of the country's 14.3 million "food-insecure" households...Catherine Drennan, director of communications and public affairs at the Greater Boston Food Bank, emphasized that many people receiving assistance are underemployed or "the working poor." "They work one or two jobs but still aren't earning enough to meet all their basic needs," she said

#### FRAC- Americans in Cold Weather States Could Be Next to Feel the Impact of SNAP Restrictions

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/12/05/food-stamps-americans-cold-weathered-states-could-get-less-aid/2609704001/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=2ae9d207-0dec-4d4e-906f-dba0f3b68be6>

About 29 states would see a [decline in funding from SNAP](#) under a proposed rule from the Trump administration that seeks to change how heating and other utility bills are calculated into

a family's expenses. When people apply for SNAP, they subtract their state's typical utility costs from their income, which provides the program with an idea of how much they have left for other expenses. That, in turn, helps determine their SNAP benefits. The proposed rule would hurt low-income residents of many cold weather states by reducing the amount they can deduct for utility costs. Ellen Vollinger, SNAP director at FRAC, says the proposal could force more people to "choose whether to heat or eat."

### Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)-

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#### **Members of Congress, Advocates Speak Out Against Trump Administration's Attacks on SNAP**

<https://frac.org/blog/members-of-congress-denounce-the-trumps-administrations-harmful-cuts-to-snap?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=2ae9d207-0dec-4d4e-906f-dba0f3b68be6>

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other House members joined FRAC's Jim Weill and the CAP Action Fund for a press event on Dec. 19 to denounce the Trump Administration's [final rule](#) that would cut nearly 700,000 adults in areas with high unemployment off of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Michael J. Wilson, director of Maryland Hunger Solutions, emceed the event, and remarks also were provided by Mike Curtin, CEO, D.C. Central Kitchen, and Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, executive director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice. Check out [FRAC's blog post](#) about the event, and [watch it on Facebook](#).

**THE FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY**  
**2020**