



FEB 28 2018

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

Courtney Hawkins, Director
Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building
57 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Director Hawkins:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has dedicated federal funding available that is intended to facilitate our state partners' attendance at meetings and conferences that cover the latest trends, policies, concerns in SNAP and allow state agencies to share best practices with each other regarding the administration of the program. It is essential that SNAP partners share knowledge and ideas to improve program performance, integrity, and access.

The Northeast Regional Office (NERO) SNAP Division is requesting that the Department of Human Services sends representatives to the following meetings being hosted by FNS this year:

- NERO SNAP Leadership Meeting in Concord, New Hampshire, May 29-31st
- EBT Northeast Coalition of States Meetings, in Concord, New Hampshire, May 29-31st and in Albany, New York this summer.

We also encourage state agency participation in the following national conferences that FNS also attends and supports through state exchange travel funding:

- The National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement Conference (NAPIPM)
- The United Council on Welfare Fraud Conference (UCOWF)
- The American Association of SNAP Directors Conference (AASD)
- The EFTA EBT Next Generation Conference (EFTA)

Please be aware that while NERO intends to support our state partners' attendance at these meetings, our ability to fund is limited by the current continuing resolution (CR) that ends March 23rd, 2018. We cannot guarantee funding to state partners until we have a CR or federal budget that covers the travel dates of the meetings listed above. We will keep state partners apprised of ongoing funding availability.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to collaborating with our partners to explore ways to strengthen SNAP. While we understand that

resources are limited, these conferences are designed for our state and federal SNAP partners, and as such we would like to see full participation from states. If you have any questions, please contact our SNAP Director, Bonnie Brathwaite, at 617-565-6397.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Messner".

Kurt Messner
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region

cc: Iwona Ramian
Kimberly Nikolaidis
Michael Sprague, Office of Internal Audit
Kimberly Seebeck, Office of Internal Audit