



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
57 Howard Avenue, Louis Pasteur Building, Cranston, RI 02920

April 17, 2018

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

RE: Request for Additional 100% SNAP E&T Funding

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (RI DHS) respectfully requests an additional \$185,879 in 100% Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) funding for the 2018 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY18). These additional funds will allow RI DHS to hire two additional staff members, an assistant administrator and a senior casework supervisor, to assist in the state's transition off the Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver.

We anticipate that we will have 13 of our cities/towns come off the ABAWD waiver effective September 1, 2018. This represents approximately 2,200 individuals that may become subject to the 3-month time limit under the ABAWD rules. Currently, we only have one community off the waiver, whose ABAWD population is less than 100 individuals. Our goal is to provide a staffing structure that will best help us serve these individuals and ensure that they are afforded an ability to continue participation in SNAP.

With the additional 100% funding, we will be able to hire at least two individuals in an expedited manner, to oversee the SNAP workforce activities at DHS. It is our intent that the Assistant Administrator would support the SNAP Administrator in providing oversight, technical assistance, and compliance for the SNAP Employment and Training contract and plan as well as coordinate activities within DHS to best service the ABAWD individuals, including establishing relationships with various partners such as the state Department of Labor to expand the workforce opportunities and activities available to SNAP participants. The senior case work supervisor would provide direct supervision to DHS social workers engaged in providing case management to ABAWDs as well as oversight to SNAP E&T and workfare participants.

RI DHS understands that the additional 100% funds may not be sustained and we may need to seek additional funding opportunities in the future. However, this additional allocation of funds for this year, will allow us to act quickly in addressing the needs of the ABAWD

population and start structuring our staffing needs to best respond to the new demands of losing a statewide ABAWD waiver.

We appreciate your continued assistance and careful consideration of this request.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-462-6410 or by e-mail at Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Iwona Ramian, Esq.
SNAP Administrator

cc: Courtney Hawkins, Director, RI DHS
John Raymond, CFO, RI DHS
Kim Brito, Deputy Director, RI DHS
Maureen Donnelly, Associate Director for Operations, RI DHS
Matthew Henschel, Policy Team Lead, USDA, FNS
Kevin Pasquaretta, E&T Team Lead, USDA, FNS
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