



**JUN 14 2018**

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
Center

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria  
VA 22302

Ms. Courtney Hawkins  
Director  
Department of Human Services  
Louis Pasteur Building  
57 Howard Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

By June 30, 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will release the official Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) overpayment, underpayment, and payment error rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 under the quality control (QC) provisions of Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (the Act). This letter is your official notification that Rhode Island will receive an assigned payment error rate for FY 2017.

Rhode Island was unable to complete a significant portion of its QC case reviews for FY 2017. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is aware that Rhode Island has experienced systemic issues with the implementation of its new eligibility system, RIBridges, which has greatly impacted the State's ability to complete QC cases during the FY 2017 review period. As a result, FNS is assigning Rhode Island an error rate for FY 2017. Section 16(c)(4) of the Act provides the Secretary of Agriculture, through FNS, the statutory authority to assign an error rate when the State fails to meet QC reporting requirements established by the Secretary.

FNS is unable to use Rhode Island's past State reported error rates as part of the methodology to estimate an error rate for FY 2017 because Rhode Island's FY 2015 integrity review cited findings of non-compliance with FNS rules. Considering this unique circumstance, FNS will utilize the FY 2017 State reported data for cases Rhode Island was able to complete reviews of in order to estimate Rhode Island's error rate for the year.

This letter, the State's response, and any subsequent correspondence shall constitute the consultation about the FY 2017 assigned error rate as required by 7 CFR 275.23(a)(2)(ii). Any response must be sent to Ronald Ward at [Ronald.Ward@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Ronald.Ward@fns.usda.gov) within 10 days of the date of this letter.

Ms. Courtney Hawkins

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Thank you for Rhode Island's commitment to ensuring the State continues to make progress to resolve outstanding technical issues. FNS is available to provide technical assistance and training to assist Rhode Island as it implements corrective actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Shahin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Shahin

Associate Administrator

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program