



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

June 30, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (RI DHS) is in receipt of your June 20, 2017 letter requesting a timeline for the expected completion of all FPRS reports listed as overdue.

As you are aware, RI DHS has had significant issues with data collection and reporting since the launch of the new eligibility system in September 2016. The state is concerned with the integrity of the data being provided by the system vendor and has engaged in a comprehensive review and validation of system data by state technical staff. This validation process is very time consuming given the volume and complexity of the data elements and the integration of health and human services programs into one eligibility system.

RI DHS has attempted to comply with the federal reporting requirements by submitting some reports through the online FPRS system. However, since March, when both the FNS-46 Monthly Issuance Reconciliation Report and the FNS-388 Monthly State Issuance & Participation Estimates were rejected by FPRS, we have not submitted any additional reports as it was our understanding that the online reporting system would not accept the flawed data. Since March, we have been working on reconciling and validating the data being provided by the new system to ensure it is accurate and valid.

The state's posting targets for the overdue reports are as follows:

- FNS-46 Issuance Reconciliation Report – July 27, 2017
- FNS-388 State Issuance & Participation Estimates – July 27, 2017
- FNS-583 Employment and Training Program Activity Report – August 31, 2017
- FNS-366B Program and Budget Summary Statement and Program Activity Statement – August 31, 2017
- FNS-388A SNAP Project Area Data Format – August 31, 2017
- FNS-834 State Agency Direct Certification Rate Data Element Report – June 30, 2017
- FNS-209 Status of Claims Against Households - September 30, 2017

The FNS-209 report relies on the Claims, Collections and Recovery Unit fully functioning in the new system. As FNS is aware, there are still some outstanding systems defects associated with this functionality. In November 2016, FNS directed RI DHS to stop further establishment of claims and collection of claims that were established after the rollout of the new eligibility system. RI DHS will continue to work with FNS in ensuring that the claims functionality is operational and accurate in the system. The target timeline for CCRU functionality is August 31, 2017.

We appreciate the assistance being provided by FNS program and financial management staff. Successful completion of some reports may require direct assistance from FNS and we are very grateful for the help and cooperation extended to us. The state is hopeful that we will be able to meet all federal reporting requirements in the next couple of months, as reflected above.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Courtney Hawkins
Director, RI Department of Human Services

cc: Yvette Mendez, Deputy Director, RI Department of Human Services
Kirk Hassel, FNS NERO
Iwona Ramian, RI DHS
Kimberly Nikolaidis, RI DHS
Willian O'Donnell, RI DHS