



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Alexandria, VA
22314

Ms. Celia J. Blue
Interim Director
Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building 57
25 Howard Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Ms. Blue:

On July 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payment error rates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 under the quality control (QC) provisions of Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (the Act). At that time and in accordance with Section 16(c)(1)(C) of the Act, Rhode Island was notified the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) determined, for a second year in a row, there was a 95 percent statistical probability its payment error rate exceeded 105 percent of the national performance measure and was assessed a \$4,068,578 liability. In addition, Rhode Island was determined to be in a first year potential liability status for FY 2019 and was informed that if, for FY 2020, FNS determines the State agency has a 95 percent statistical probability its payment error rate exceeds 105 percent of the national performance measure once again, a liability amount may be established.

On September 30, 2020, Rhode Island signed a settlement agreement with USDA in which Rhode Island agreed to settle its liability amount by designating 50 percent of its liability amount for new investment in approved activities to improve administration of SNAP, and by designating the other 50 percent of the liability amount as at-risk for repayment if a liability amount for an excessive payment error rate was established for FY 2020.

On February 19, 2021, FNS announced it cannot assess SNAP State error rates or a national performance measure for FY 2020 due to limited data. Since FNS is unable to determine a national performance measure for FY 2020, Rhode Island's FY 2019 at-risk amount of \$2,034,289 does not need to be paid and the State is no longer in a potential liability status as of FY 2020. The February 19, 2021, announcement does not affect the State's settlement agreement referenced above. As such, the State agency must continue to fulfill its FY 2019 QC-related new investment amount requirements, which include expending required funds and submitting progress reports as appropriate.

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Thank you for your partnership in continuing to improve the administration of SNAP.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your FNS
Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Long
Acting Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture