



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
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Boston, MA
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June 17, 2019

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

Dear Director Hawkins:

Thank you for your April 29, 2019 response letter to our Legal Costs determination memo dated April 1, 2019. FNS appreciates Rhode Island Department of Human Services' (RI DHS) timely response to this issue and the proposed corrective action.

In your letter, you identified unallowable legal costs in the amount of \$95,122.27 for FFY 2017 and FFY 2018.

FFY	State	Federal	Total
2017	66,330.97	66,330.96	132,661.93
2018	28,781.31	28,781.31	57,562.62
	95,112.28	95,112.27	190,224.55

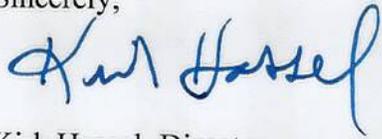
FNS concurs with your plan to amend applicable reports. However, before making adjustments to federal financial reports, we are requesting a follow up response which specifies how your review/analysis was determined. (i.e., what was the methodology used for determining which legal costs were unallowable?)

The additional corrective action plan proposed – reinvestment of the liability – is not allowed. FNS appreciates any opportunity to improve SNAP administration. However, after review, FNS has determined that this liability results from disallowed costs rather than a quality control sanction. As such, FNS will address the liability through the collections process and submit to RI DHS a Bill for Collection.

Please respond to the additional inquiry about identification of unallowable costs with two weeks of the date of this letter.

Should you have any questions in regard to this letter, please contact Grants Management Branch Chief, Miranda E. Miranda, 617-565-4509.

Sincerely,



Kirk Hassel, Director
Grants Management and Administrative Services Division
Food and Nutrition Services

Cc: Deborah Barclay
Bonnie Brathwaite