



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

August 11, 2017

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

RE: Request to Extend the Standard Medical Deduction Demonstration Project

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

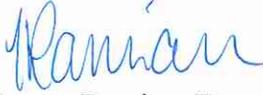
The State of Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) is submitting this request to extend the Standard Medical Deduction Demonstration Project, which was authorized for an initial 5-year period, beginning October 1, 2012 and ending September 30, 2017. The initial approved request waived Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, which states that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households containing an elderly or disabled member are entitled to a deduction from household income for actual costs of allowable medical expenses incurred by the elderly or disabled member that exceed \$35 a month.

We are requesting an extension to continue to waive Section 5(e)(5) and permit DHS to continue using a standard medical deduction in the amount of \$141 a month to replace actual costs of medical expenses in excess of \$35 a month for households with elderly and disabled members.

DHS will continue to reduce its Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) by \$10 to offset the increased cost of applying the \$141 standard medical deduction for households whose excess medical costs are below \$176 a month. For households with medical expenses exceeding \$176 a month, the actual monthly medical expenses will be allowed less \$35.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, or if DHS needs to submit any additional documentation in support, please contact me at [Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov) or by telephone at 401-462-6410.

Sincerely,



Iwona Ramian, Esq.  
SNAP Administrator

cc: Matthew Henschel, Policy Team Lead, USDA, FNS, NERO  
Courtney Hawkins, Director, RI DHS  
Yvette Mendez, Deputy Director, RI DHS  
Kimberly Nikolaidis, Assistant SNAP Administrator, RI DHS