



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Maritza Perez
FROM: Ronald Racine, Associate Director, DHS/ORS
DATE: September 22, 2017
SUBJECT: Disabilities and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Developing a disability can lead to reductions in earnings, total family income, and purchases of essentials like food and housing, especially among those with the most severe disabilities. Lower family income, higher disability-related expenses, and the challenges of providing needed assistance and care to disabled family members undermine the economic well-being of people with disabilities and their families. People with disabilities are at least twice as likely to live in poverty and struggle to put enough food on the table as people without disabilities. Disabling or chronic health conditions may be made worse by insufficient food or a low-quality diet.

The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) is a division falling under the purview of the Department of Human Services. (DHS) This is a long-standing partnership; ORS has been, and will continue to be available to assist the SNAP program. ORS works with SNAP recipients with disabilities to become more self-sufficient through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Independent Living (IL) services. The mission of ORS is to empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and integration into society.

ORS works closely with the SNAP program to ensure Rhode Islander's with disabilities are aware of, and receive services to which they are entitled. ORS reaffirms our ongoing commitment to working closely with SNAP recipients. ORS provides technical assistance related to disability issues, including but not limited to reasonable accommodations, assistive technology, and accessibility issues. ORS strives for full compliance under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for all of our customers.