



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

SEP 19 2018

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

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

Dear Director Hawkins:

This letter serves as the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Northeast Regional Office response to Rhode Island's (RI) Corrective Action Response (CAR) from June 19, 2018. This CAR relates to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 FNS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Management Evaluation (ME), which focused on Recipient Integrity, conducted the week of September 17, 2017. FNS acknowledges the documentation supplied by the State and has the following comments:

CLOSED FINDINGS

The CAR sufficiently addressed the findings listed below to include enough information to validate the Corrective Action was implemented. These findings are now closed.

INTEG 17.4

Finding Language: DHS is not checking eDRS prior to assessing disqualification penalties.

INTEG 17.11

Finding Language: The State is using two different Notices of Disqualification one of which does not have all Federal Required language.

LONG TERM CORRECTIVE ACTION

The CAR sufficiently addressed the findings listed below, but Corrective Action steps have not been fully implemented nor validated. The State needs to develop written processes and procedures for all the findings listed below. These findings can transition to the State's semi-annual CAP.

INTEG 17.1

Finding Language: The FFY 2016 FNS-366B report is inaccurate.

INTEG 17.2

Finding Language: The FFY 2017 FNS-366B Quarterly report submitted by the State is inaccurate and untimely. The State has not yet submitted all quarterly reports for the FFY2018.

INTEG 17.3

Finding Language: eDRS is not checked at application and recertification.

INTEG 17.5

Finding Language: The locality code and contact reported in eDRS is incorrect.

INTEG 17.6

Finding Language: The State is not checking eDRS for newly added household members.

INTEG 17.7

Finding Language: The State is not submitting disqualification information timely in eDRS.

INTEG 17.8

Finding Language: Inaccurate application of the approved IPV threshold being used.

INTEG 17.9

Finding Language: IPV claims are disposed of with incorrect interpretation of "aged claims."

INTEG 17.10

Finding Language: The Notice of disqualification does not have all the Federal required language.

INTEG 17.12

Finding Language: ADH decisions are inaccurately representing Federal regulations.

INTEG 17.13

Finding Language: The IPV demand letter is missing required language.

INTEG 17.14

Finding Language: Potential IPV cases not referred to the Fraud Unit.

INTEG 17.15

Finding Language: Administrative Disqualification Hearing referrals reduced since RIBridges go-live.

INTEG 17.16

Finding Language: IPV case files are incomplete and do not contain sufficient documentary evidence.

INTEG 17.17

Finding Language: DHS does not comply with the Federal records retention requirements.

INTEG 17.18

Finding Language: DHS does not comply with the IPV case records maintenance requirements.

INTEG 17.19

Finding Language: The State's prisoner match verification system is not in production.

INTEG 17.20

Finding Language: The State's deceased matching system is not in production.

INTEG 17.21

Finding Language: DHS failed to develop an efficient tracking system to monitor cases referred for prosecution.

INTEG 17.22

Finding Language: DHS does not have a system in place to refer appropriate cases for prosecution.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in resolving the findings through the corrective action process. We request an update on the status of each open corrective action with your next semi-annual CAP. If you have any questions please contact Mishka Nembhard at Mishka.Nembhard@fns.usda.gov or 617-565-4121.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region