



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 28 2018

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

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture released the official Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) case and procedural error rates (CAPER) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and FY 2017.

CAPER measures the correctness of a State agency's action to deny an application, suspend, or terminate the benefits of a participating household. It also measures a State's compliance with Federal procedural requirements for such actions to be taken, which include the timeliness of the action and adherence to notice requirements.

Rhode Island's CAPER for FY 2016 is:	7.36 percent
The National CAPER rate for FY 2016 is:	23.27 percent

Rhode Island's CAPER for FY 2017 is:	63.39 percent
The National CAPER rate for FY 2017 is:	28.55 percent

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is announcing the recipients of the best and most improved CAPER bonus payments for FY 2016 and FY 2017. For FY 2016, Rhode Island was among the four States with the lowest CAPER and will receive a bonus in the amount of \$401,811. For FY 2017, Rhode Island did not qualify for an award in either the best or most improved categories.

Proper administration of the SNAP QC system is our shared responsibility and is essential to guaranteeing the program is run efficiently, effectively, and with the utmost integrity. To ensure the accuracy of the data used to measure program performance, FNS intends to continue to conduct comprehensive reviews of State reported case and procedural error rate data. To assist with ongoing reviews of this data using existing procedures, FNS reminds State agencies of the requirement to retain records and permit FNS personnel ready access to case files and information systems per 7 CFR 275.4 of the Federal regulations.

Ms. Courtney Hawkins
Page 2

If FNS is unable to validate your State reported CAPER data, you will not be eligible to receive a performance bonus. If FNS is able to validate your State reported CAPER data and determines that your State is eligible for a performance bonus, FNS may delay payment of the bonus until the issues regarding the significant number of over-issuances due to major systemic errors, described below, are resolved.

In regards to the major systemic issues, FNS, in prior correspondence dated March 3, 2017 and August 23, 2017, notified you of concerns regarding major systemic errors associated with the implementation of RIBridges that led to the overissuance of benefits to households. FNS required you to submit a Formal Warning Corrective Action Plan, which was received on May 15, 2018. In a letter dated July 20, 2018, FNS notified you that your Formal Warning would be held in abeyance conditional upon the completion of specific performance goals to ensure the protection of taxpayer dollars. FNS anticipates that a claim will be established in the near future for the over-issuances. Pending resolution of this potential claim, FNS is delaying payment of the CAPER bonus. Once a claim, if any, is established, we may use the bonus money to offset the claim.

FNS will continue working with you as we strive to better serve our participants and practice good stewardship of taxpayer funds. Thank you for your partnership in administering this important program.

Sincerely,



Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

cc: Regional Administrator