



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

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Kurt Messner, Regional Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Regional office
10 Causeway Street
Boston, Ma 02222

Dear Administrator Messner,

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on your letter dated 9/26/2017 and to provide you with an update on the status of the State's implementation of the 2017 COLA.

To date, the State has completed COLA updates for 92.18% (83,362) households. During the first and second FPL runs in mid-September, 65% percent of cases were updated. Those cases were authorized with the new benefit amounts and were mailed both the traditional Benefit Determination Notice as well as a more informal notice explaining the change in the federal guidelines that resulted in many households experiencing a small benefit change. The remaining portion of the SNAP caseload that was not initially updated due to technical issues and concerns with the data and resulting changes in benefits. We worked with Deloitte to identify trends within the case changes and to segment out cases that the State felt comfortable could be reliably updated.

As was previously disclosed, a portion of the remaining 35% of the updates were completed after the October issuance. Of the households that were updated after the October issuance, 12,661 resulted in an overpayment to the household. We are still working to determine the amount of this overpayment and will provide this to you in a subsequent correspondence.

Currently, 7,073 cases are pending an update. The State is working with Deloitte to automatically update those cases in the next month. Cases that can't be updated automatically will be worked individually. Kindly call me or email me if you have any questions or would like to discuss my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney Hawkins".

Courtney Hawkins
Director