



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FEB 26 2009

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: ARRA Benefit Adjustments for Combined Application Projects

TO: All Regional Directors
Food Stamp Program

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) includes a 13.6 percent increase in maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which equates to a \$24 increase for a one-person household.

Please notify the CAP States in your Regions that, on April 1, they must implement this increase for all project households. Analysis of Combined Application Project (CAP) cost neutrality data confirms that the adjustment is applicable to both high and low shelter cases in States offering standardized benefits, as well as to all cases in States that do not standardize benefit amounts. The exception to this is States that are not now cost neutral and will need to adjust the amount of the benefit increase to become cost neutral. FNS will work with these States individually.

If there are any questions, contact Shelia Little at 703-305-2762 (shelia.little@fns.usda.gov) or Micheal Atwell at 703-305-2449 (micheal.atwell@fns.usda.gov).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur H. Foley".

Arthur H. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

cc: Kathryn Law, ORA

The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.