

SNAP Policy Roundup

NEW PATHS Conference
Portland, OR
August 16, 2011



Overview

Hot Topics in SNAP

Disasters

ABAWDs and work requirements

COLAs

Initiatives to Increase Access

Workload Management Options

Modernization efforts

Waivers

Demonstration Projects

On the Horizon

New Regulations

SNAP and Medicaid

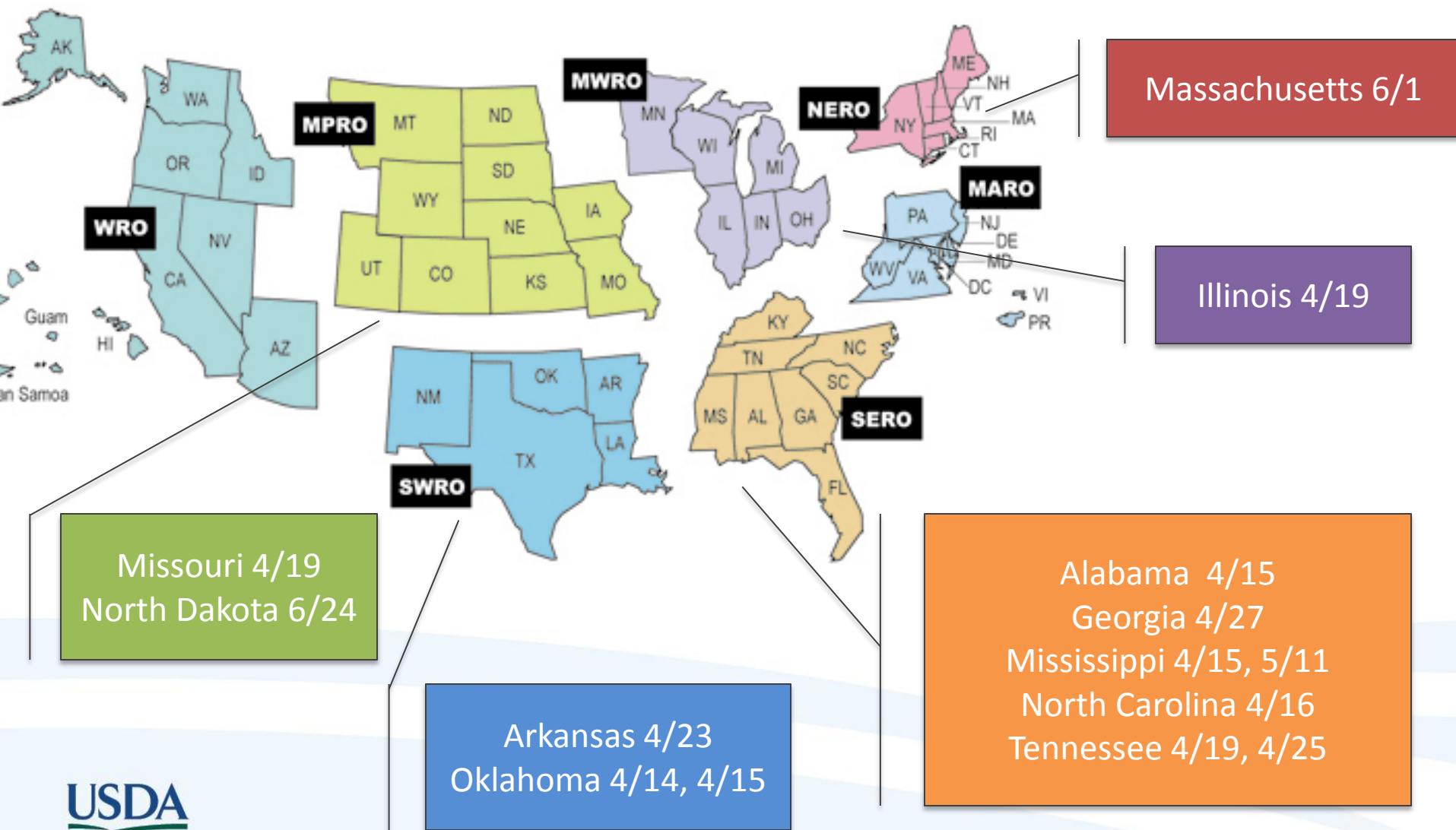
New Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate



Hot Topics in SNAP



Disaster SNAP in 2011



When can a D-SNAP be used?

1. There is a Presidential major disaster declaration;
2. An Individual Assistance declaration; and
3. Commercial channels of food distribution are up and running.

Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in 2011

This year, nationwide:

- 14 D-SNAPs in 11 States
- 1.1 million people in 464,000 households
- \$148 million in D-SNAP benefits



Common Disaster Waivers

Certification Waivers

- D-SNAP Waiver
- Supplements

Benefit Redemption Waivers

- Hot Foods
- Mass Replacements
- Timely Reporting



Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

- Most States continue to qualify for statewide waivers:
 - FY 2011: 45 States with statewide waivers, 7 with partial
 - FY 2012: 46 States eligible for a statewide waiver

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Programs

- Examples of technical training programs:
 - Nursing assistant
 - Medical technician
 - Crane operator
 - Commercial truck driving
 - Cosmetician

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAS)

Effective October 1, 2011: Max SNAP Allotment

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	\$200
2	\$367
3	\$526
4	\$668
5	\$793
6	\$952
7	\$1,052
8	\$1,202
Each additional person	\$150



Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAS)

Effective October 1, 2011:

Maximum Shelter Deduction

Area	Maximum Amount
48 States and DC	\$459

Standard Deductions

Area	Household Size			
	1-3	4	5	6+
48 States and DC	\$147	\$155	\$181	\$208



Initiatives to Increase Access

- Latino Action Plan
- Non-Citizen Eligibility Guidance
- Elderly and Disabled Guide
- Prisoner Reentry Mythbusters

Latino Action Plan

- Coordinated effort between FNS and the USDA Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
 - No Mas Hambre Summit
 - Roundtable discussions
 - Updating guidance



Non-Citizen Eligibility Guidance

- Released in June of 2011
- Updates include:
 - Special SNAP eligibility rules for specific groups of immigrants
 - Reporting unlawful presence
 - Emphasis on the “Public Charge”
- Available on www.fns.usda.gov under What’s New?



Access for the Elderly and Disabled

- Updating 1999 guidance:
 - New policy;
 - Waiver options; and
 - Outreach tools
- Developing a dedicated website

Prisoner Reentry Focus

REENTRY
MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

On SNAP Benefits

MYTH: Individuals convicted of a felony can never receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits.

FACT: This ban applies only to convicted drug felons, and only thirteen States have kept the ban in place in its entirety. Most States have modified or eliminated the ban.

Workload Management



Workload Management: BPR

- Business process re-engineering (BPR)
- A tool for local offices
- Washington's BPR:
 - 80% of applications processed in one day
 - Reduced caller wait time to <5 minutes
 - Fewer client complaints

Workload Management: Call Centers

- Call centers can...
 - Use staff and resources efficiently
 - Provide better access in remote areas
 - Provide information outside of normal business hours
 - Reduce office traffic

Workload Management: Call Centers

- The Call Center Technical Assistant Group Guidebook:
 - Decision drivers
 - Benchmarks
 - Business process analysis
 - Staff, training, and supervision
 - Customer Service
 - Transitioning

Workload Management: Online Applications

- Online applications must afford the same rights and responsibilities as paper applications
 - Right to file with name, address, and signature
 - Cannot require SSNs from non-applicants

Workload Management: Waivers

- On-Demand Interviews
 - In lieu of scheduled interviews
- Electronic Notices
 - Client notifications are sent electronically instead of by paper mail

Workload Management: Waivers

- Postponed Interview Waiver
 - Interview of expedited cases is postponed up to 2 months
- Waiver of Recertification Interview
 - Elderly and disabled households with no earned income

Workload Management: Demonstration Projects

- Combined Application Projects
 - SSI recipients
 - SSI data is used for income and HH composition
 - No face-to-face interview required

Workload Management: Demonstration Projects

- Standard Medical Deductions
 - Given to HH with medical expenses > \$35 per month
 - No verification beyond \$35 minimum
 - No verification at recertification

On the Horizon



New Regulations

- Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training (preliminary published May 4, 2011)
- Review of Major Changes (preliminary published May 3, 2011)
- Anticipated:
 - Clarification of Eligibility of Fleeing Felons
 - Major System Failures
 - Automated Data Rule

SNAP and Medicaid

- Joint outreach and enrollment
- Federal coordination
- Joint paper and online application models

Ending on a Nutritious Note

- SNAP encourages healthy food choices through:
 - Nutrition education (SNAP-Ed)
 - Financial incentives, and
 - Increased access to healthy food



SNAP-Ed Goal

To improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make **healthy food choices** within a limited budget and **choose physically active lifestyles**

SNAP-Ed Resources

- Loving Your Family
- Eat Right When Money's Tight
- Eat Smart, Live Strong
- SNAP-Ed Connection Recipe Finder

2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

- Balancing calories with physical activity;
- Eat more
 - vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fat-free, low-fat dairy products, and seafood; and

2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

- Eat less sodium, saturated and *trans* fats, added sugars, and refined grains

2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

- Tips to help consumers
 - Enjoy your food, eat less
 - Avoid oversized portions
 - Make half your plate fruits and vegetables

2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

- Tips to help consumers
 - Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk
 - Compare sodium in foods (soups, breads, and frozen meals)
 - Drink water instead of sugary drinks

What Does MyPlate Mean to You?



What is MyPlate?

- A new take on a familiar mealtime symbol
- Symbolizes a healthy plate based on the food groups



Build a Healthy Plate

- Think before you eat– what goes on your plate?
- Making food choices for a healthy lifestyle can be simple
 - Balance your calories
 - Choose foods to *eat more often*
 - Cut back on foods to *eat less often*

Foods to Increase

- Fruits and vegetables
- Fat-free or 1% milk or dairy products
- Whole grains
- Vary your protein choices
 - Choose seafood twice a week

Make these foods the basis for meals
and snacks



Be Physically Active Your Way

- Physical activity = movement of the body that uses energy
- The more you do, the greater the benefits
- Energy balance requires moving more and eating less

Take a Step Today

Some ideas on how to get started:

- Stock up on healthy foods
- Make simple switches
- Keep cooking tasty and healthy
- Don't leave it at home

Be part of the movement!

Resources on www.ChooseMyPlate.gov

- Dietary Guidelines “Let’s Eat” brochure
- “10 Tips” nutrition education series
- Sample 7-day menus
- Healthy recipes
- Online interactive tools

Questions?



Resources

www.fns.usda.gov

www.partnerweb.usda.gov

Support number 1-800-201-2112

Email:

FNSPartnerWebAdmin@americansystems.com

