



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Helen E. Jones-Kelley, Director

OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #77a
September 30, 2008

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Paul Fraunholtz, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: Renaming of Ohio's Food Stamp Program: The "Food Assistance Program"

On June 18, 2008, Congress enacted The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) reauthorizing the Food Stamp Program. Section 4001 of the Act officially changed the name of the program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) effective October 1, 2008. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has instructed states to either adopt the federal name "SNAP" or use a different name other than Food Stamps.

On July 28, 2008, The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Family Stability announced our intention to adopt a different name for Ohio's Food Stamp program and extended an opportunity to all county departments of job and family services to participate in a contest to solicit ideas and names to consider.

A joint state and county workgroup reviewed 29 submissions and narrowed the list down to three potential new names. ODJFS executive staff made the final selection and I am pleased to announce the new name of Ohio's Food Stamp Program effective October 1, 2008 will be the **"Food Assistance Program"**.

We believe "Food Assistance Program" more simply conveys the intent of the program and will cause less confusion to our customers, advocates and the general public.

What does this mean for your agency?

- Only the name of the program is changing. The name change does not affect the program regulations, requirements, issuance, eligibility for or use of benefits.
- Continue to use existing application forms, brochures, informational materials, certification handbook, etc.
- Begin to refer to our program as the Food Assistance Program, or "food assistance".

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Over the next few months we will be working to update the Food Stamp Certification Handbook, our application and various forms, CRIS-E notices and other informational materials. As revisions are completed replacements will be made available to you. If you have any local agency materials in which you refer to food stamps, feel free to use them until they run out, at which time you should revise them to reflect the new name "Food Assistance Program".

We will also be working closely with FNS, advocates and other interested parties to streamline communication to the community on the name change of the program. Updated publications and information will be shared with you as it is developed.

I would like to thank all of the counties who submitted suggestions for consideration and also specifically recognize the following counties who either submitted "Food Assistance Program" or some close variation of the name:

- 1) Allen County
- 2) Jefferson County
- 3) Noble County
- 4) Richland County; and
- 5) Tuscarawas County

Ohio's newly named Food Assistance Program will continue to provide the support necessary to supplement the nutritional needs of Ohio's most vulnerable and needy citizens.

Any questions regarding this letter may be directed to Trudie Bormann at 614-644-1524 or via e-mail at Trudie.Bormann@jfs.ohio.gov.

PF:tb

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