

Date: 06/05/2009

Topic: **Food Assistance Stimulus Q & A**

During the Stimulus presentation at the OJFSDA Conference, several questions were posed about the Federal Food Assistance Stimulus. Enclosed are the written responses to those questions. Also, attached is a copy of the Power Point presented at the conference which provides additional information, including a coding adjustment example.

1) Why would an agency want to use this funding for the Apr - Jun 2009 quarter?

Answer: If an agency is anticipating it will be in ceiling excess for the total IM allocation (all components), then they may want to consider using the Food Assistance Stimulus to cover all or a portion of the excess with existing Food Assistance expenditures for the Apr - Jun 2009 quarter.

2) What if an agency requests too much or not enough Food Assistance Stimulus funding for the Apr - Jun 2009 quarter?

Answer: The goal for this funding is to ensure the entire allocation is used. BCFTA will work with agencies to ensure that this funding is utilized for the greatest benefit.

- If the request is higher than the IM ceiling excess, then the balance of the request will carry forward to be utilized during the Jul - Sep 2009 quarter.
- If the request is not enough and the agency would like to fully cover their IM ceiling excess, they can request to use the remaining balance from their Food Assistance Stimulus allocation during the April-June quarterly reconciliation period.

3) If a request is not made in accordance with FAPL No. 15 to utilize food assistance stimulus funding in SFY09, will an opportunity exist to request to move expenditures later, if a ceiling excess is discovered at the end of the Apr-Jun 09 quarter?

Answer: Yes, the money will still be available for use, but will not be available for draw. All requests for draw of the stimulus funding are due by June 15, 2009. If a request is not made, and a ceiling excess is discovered after that point, the agency should contact their fiscal supervisor prior to the Apr - Jun quarter close and BCFTA will work with the agency until final June reports are issued.

4) When a request is submitted by June 15, 2009 to utilize Food Assistance Stimulus funding for expenditures in SFY 09, can it later be reversed?

Answer: Yes; BCFTA will work with agencies until the final June reports are issued in order to fully utilize the Food Assistance Stimulus funding.

5) How will food assistance stimulus funding be handled beginning July 1, 2009? Will coding be available and if so, when?

Answer: Grant coding will be available for agencies to draw funding only; however, agencies will not have expenditure coding available to them. BCFTA will continue to move expenditures to Food Assistance Stimulus to ensure all funding is utilized.

6) When will budgets be available for the Apr – Jun 2009 quarter and the Jul – Sep 2009 quarter so that an agency can draw?

Answer: The Federal Food Assistance Stimulus amount allocated to each agency was sent on June 2, 2009.

Apr – June 2009 Quarter:

- All requests submitted by the June 15th deadline will be entered into the system and available for draw beginning June 17th. The window for draw closes on June 19, 2009 at 3:00 PM.

Jul – Sep 2009 Quarter:

- If an agency made a request for the Apr – Jun 2009 quarter and they have a portion remaining, then the Jul – Sep 2009 budget will not be available for draw until the Apr – Jun 2009 quarter is closed.
- If an agency did not utilize any Food Assistance Stimulus funding during the Apr – Jun 2009 quarter, then a budget will be available in July for weekly draws.
- Draws will be monitored to ensure they are in line with reported expenditures.

7) How and when will agencies receive cash for food assistance stimulus expenditures moved in Apr-Jun 09 and Jul-Sep 09? Will it be a reimbursement similar to the child support stimulus incentives process? Will it be pushed out to agencies like a quarter close?

Answer: The Food Assistance Stimulus will be part of the Over/Under calculation and will be reimbursed as part of the quarterly reconciliations. If utilizing the Stimulus funds in the April- June quarter, the agencies may draw the week of June 19th. Beginning in July, they can draw weekly once budgets are available (see Q & A 6).

8) If an agency has already drawn down cash for food stamps and expenditures have been reported to match those draws, how will the reconciliation process be handled once expenditures are reduced when moved to the food assistance stimulus funding?

Answer: Only ceiling excesses in SFY 09 will be moved to Food Assistance Stimulus. The Food Assistance Stimulus grant will be part of the Over/Under calculation, and part of the netting process, during quarterly reconciliation.

9) When will BCFTA complete the coding adjustments for the June 15th requests to utilize Food Assistance Stimulus funding in SFY09 (Apr-Jun 2009 quarter)?

Answer: Coding adjustments will be completed as part of quarterly reconciliation. We will work with the counties until final June reports are issued in order to fully utilize this funding and assist in any possible SFY09 ceiling excesses.

Please contact your ODJFS Fiscal Supervisor if you have any questions. Thank you.