



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Food and
Nutrition
Service**

**3101 Park
Center Drive**

**Alexandria, VA
22302-1500**

Dear State SNAP Director:

You are invited to apply for a grant award to implement a demonstration project in which the face-to-face interview for SNAP benefits is waived. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will competitively select three states to participate in this important study. The purpose of this project is to compare the effects of not conducting interviews at certification or at certification and recertification with the States' current interviewing practices. Each State will identify a pilot site in which the interview at certification or at certification and recertification will be eliminated for all SNAP clients. The comparison site will operate this aspect of the SNAP as it does so currently. Current practice may be face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, same-day interviews, or some combination.

The performance period for this grant is 28 months - September 2011 through December 2013. Pilot operations are expected to run between September 2012 and November 2013. FNS will provide grants up to \$150,000 to each state for participation in the study. The grants are meant to off-set the cost of developing and implementing the pilots, as well as providing evaluation data.

Participating states will be responsible for coordinating all entities involved in the demonstration and cooperating with the FNS evaluation contractor, Mathematica Policy Research. States are expected to provide a project liaison person at the state agency and the pilot and comparison sites. These individuals will work closely with FNS and the FNS evaluation contractor throughout the project. States will also be required to apply for appropriate waivers and submit progress reports to FNS.

Critical Dates for Grant Awards

July 8, 2011
July 15, 2011
August 5, 2011
September 2011

Intent to Submit an Application is due to FNS
Written questions about the study are due to FNS
Applications are due to FNS by 11:59 pm EDT
Grants will be awarded

State SNAP Director
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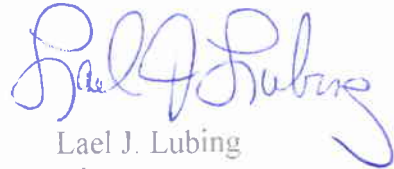
If there are any questions regarding the Assessment of Alternatives to Face-to-Face Interviews in SNAP Grant RFA, please contact Carla Garcia, Grants Officer at the Grants Management Division via email at carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov.

The full RFA is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora>. Applicants must apply via the Federal government-wide web site www.grants.gov.

Sincerely,



Carol Olander
Director
Family Programs Staff



Lael J. Lubing
Director
Grants & Fiscal Policy Division