

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

FOOD STAMP UNIT (FSU)

TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 09-08

July 30, 2009

TO: All Food Assistance Action Committee (FAAC) Members and Field Operations Bureau (FOB) staff

SUBJECT/PURPOSE: SNAP Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

RELATED REFERENCE: USDA Food Stamp Program Quality Control Policy Memo 09-05 and ACL 09-12

SUPERSEDES: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2009 Sample Month

BACKGROUND:

On February 17 2009, the President signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The ARRA contains changes that impact the Quality Control reviews. The tolerance level for citing errors has temporarily increased. Also the ARRA establishes a hold harmless in the implementation of the new adjusted Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits levels.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Effective with the April 2009 through September 2009 sample months only cite under-issuance (UI) or over-issuance (OI) errors of \$51 or more, plus all payments to ineligible households (regardless of the amount). RADEP has revised Item 010-F002 to capture the new tolerance level.

Any variances resulting from mistakes on the amount of the benefits authorized for a household resulting from the application of the adjusted benefits levels will be excluded under the hold harmless provisions effective with the sample months of April 2009 through September 2009. Also, any variance resulting from improperly disqualifying an ABAWD food stamp household member because of receiving three months of benefits will also be excluded. Finally, the variance exclusion will apply to errors regarding the \$25 weekly increase in the unemployment insurance benefits effective with the March 2009 through June 2009 sample months.

When the variance is excluded because of the hold harmless period, code the case as a correct case and note in the RADEP comments that there is a variance which is excluded because of the hold harmless period.

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