



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon B. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

February 3, 2005

Re: Approval of Simplified Nutritional
Assistance Program (SNAP)

Dear County Director of Social Services:

We are very pleased to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved North Carolina's plan for the Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is a demonstration project that provides an administratively simple alternative to the joint processing provisions of the Food Stamp Act for providing benefits to elderly households eligible for both food stamp benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This six year project is designed to improve the delivery of benefits and increase participation by the state's elderly SSI recipients in the Food Stamp Program. We anticipate SNAP will be implemented using a phased approach by late summer 2005.

SNAP will increase the amount of food stamp benefits received by project households who qualify. This is a much anticipated project across the state, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the success of the SNAP project. Attached to this letter is a SNAP Overview as well as a spreadsheet containing potential new SNAP recipients. The numbers for automatic conversion cases are not yet available but will be provided at a later date. These numbers are based on information provided by the Social Security Administration.

Again, we are excited about this new project and confident it will benefit elderly low income citizens across the State. If you have any questions, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Schwartz".

Jane Schwartz, Chief
Economic Services Section

JS/dl
Attachments
FAEP-01-2005