



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN HOBBS
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Arizona had an APT rate of 93.00 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 9.62 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.77 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 35.92 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN HOBBS

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Huckabee Sanders:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Arkansas had an APT rate of 78.21 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 10.21 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.10 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 54.85 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

Page 2

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show California had an APT rate of 86.29 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 9.59 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.51 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 39.60 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JARED POLIS
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Colorado had an APT rate of 82.14 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.29 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.02 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 39.12 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JARED POLIS

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE NED LAMONT
Governor of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Connecticut had an APT rate of 98.06 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.21 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.73 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 34.43 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE NED LAMONT

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE RONALD DESANTIS
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Florida had an APT rate of 66.37 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.45 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.15 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 51.71 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE RONALD DESANTIS

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE BRIAN KEMP
Governor of Georgia
State Capitol
206 Washington Street, Suite 203
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Georgia had an APT rate of 84.90 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 11.75 percent and an underpayment rate of 3.23 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 74.82 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE BRIAN KEMP

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN
Governor of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Green:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Hawaii had an APT rate of 79.95 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 19.65 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.13 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 58.15 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE J.B. PRITZKER
Governor of Illinois
State Capital
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Illinois had an APT rate of 99.86 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 9.67 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.24 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 45.53 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE J.B. PRITZKER

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Vista Fletcher, at 312-965-9083.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE ERIC HOLCOMB
Governor of Indiana
State House
200 W. Washington Street, Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Indiana had an APT rate of 86.18 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.59 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.10 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 39.03 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE ERIC HOLCOMB

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Vista Fletcher, at 312-965-9083.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE KIM REYNOLDS
Governor of Iowa
State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Iowa had an APT rate of 82.92 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.78 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.82 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 29.65 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE KIM REYNOLDS

Page 2

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We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE LAURA KELLY
Governor of Kansas
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 212S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Kansas had an APT rate of 88.54 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 8.74 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.33 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 35.06 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in both PER and CAPER are worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

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THE HONORABLE LAURA KELLY

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE ANDY BESHEAR
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Kentucky had an APT rate of 84.10 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.05 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.78 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 79.67 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE ANDY BESHEAR

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK

Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JEFF LANDRY
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Landry:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Louisiana had an APT rate of 98.64 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.00 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.20 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 58.57 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JEFF LANDRY

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JANET MILLS
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Maine had an APT rate of 95.17 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 13.59 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.27 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 48.42 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JANET MILLS

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE WES MOORE
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Maryland had an APT rate of 88.58 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 32.65 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.91 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 55.48 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in both CAPER and PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE WES MOORE

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE MAURA HEALEY
Governor of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Massachusetts had an APT rate of 95.69 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 10.77 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.00 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 23.55 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE MAURA HEALEY

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE GRETCHEN WHITMER
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Michigan had an APT rate of 82.14 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 10.22 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.78 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 47.08 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE GRETCHEN WHITMER

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Vista Fletcher, at 312-965-9083.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE TIM WALZ
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Minnesota had an APT rate of 89.18 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.49 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.75 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 31.79 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE TIM WALZ

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Vista Fletcher, at 312-965-9083.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE TATE REEVES
Governor of Mississippi
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Reeves:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Mississippi had an APT rate of 91.55 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.63 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.16 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 47.32 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE TATE REEVES

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE MIKE PARSON
Governor of Missouri
Capitol Building, Room 216
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Missouri had an APT rate of 90.27 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 12.02 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.01 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 16.74 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE MIKE PARSON

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE GREG GIANFORTE
Governor of Montana
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Montana had an APT rate of 83.66 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.71 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.26 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 44.54 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in both CAPER and PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE GREG GIANFORTE

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JIM PILLEN
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Governor Pilen:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Nebraska had an APT rate of 95.78 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.39 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.95 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 13.96 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JIM PILLEN

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK

Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada
Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Lombardo:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Nevada had an APT rate of 96.02 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.10 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.12 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 28.72 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JOE LOMBARDO

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER SUNUNU
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show New Hampshire had an APT rate of 96.88 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.71 percent and an underpayment rate of 4.63 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 46.12 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER SUNUNU

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE PHIL MURPHY
Governor of New Jersey
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show New Jersey had an APT rate of 87.44 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 4.92 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.32 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 47.71 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is worse. Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments

THE HONORABLE PHIL MURPHY

Page 2

in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Governor of New Mexico
State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show New Mexico had an APT rate of 72.81 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 11.39 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.04 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 45.34 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE KATHY HOCHUL
Governor of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show New York had an APT rate of 64.95 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 10.35 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.54 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 45.26 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE KATHY HOCHUL

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE ROY COOPER
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Cooper:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show North Carolina had an APT rate of 97.58 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 17.44 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.63 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 35.83 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE ROY COOPER

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE DOUG BURGUM
Governor of North Dakota
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 101
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Governor Burgum:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show North Dakota had an APT rate of 55.68 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 8.06 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.45 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 34.10 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE DOUG BURGUM

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Cheryl Kennedy, at 303-844-0300.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE MIKE DEWINE
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Ohio had an APT rate of 97.48 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 6.14 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.96 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 34.76 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE MIKE DEWINE

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Vista Fletcher, at 312-965-9083.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE KEVIN STITT
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol Building
2300 Lincoln Blvd., Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Oklahoma had an APT rate of 95.74 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.67 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.22 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 26.28 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE KEVIN STITT

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE TINA KOTEK
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Koteck:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Oregon had an APT rate of 87.80 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 21.76 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.23 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 46.03 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in both CAPER and PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE TINA KOTEK

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Pennsylvania had an APT rate of 94.81 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 12.54 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.91 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 38.59 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JOSH SHAPIRO

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE DANIEL MCKEE
Governor of Rhode Island
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor McKee:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Rhode Island had an APT rate of 92.41 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 12.18 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.41 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 41.60 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE DANIEL MCKEE

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE HENRY McMASTER
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show South Carolina had an APT rate of 74.15 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.49 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.70 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 79.63 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE HENRY MCMASTER

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE BILL LEE
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Tennessee had an APT rate of 79.18 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 19.04 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.75 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 29.60 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse. Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE BILL LEE

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Willie Taylor, at 404-227-4164.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Texas had an APT rate of 87.08 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.26 percent and an underpayment rate of 2.60 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 44.31 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE GREG ABBOTT

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE SPENCER COX
Governor of Utah
State Capitol
350 N. State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Governor Cox:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Utah had an APT rate of 98.99 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.58 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.03 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 24.58 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent State-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE SPENCER COX

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, William Ludwig, at 254-640-0006.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE GLENN YOUNGKIN
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Virginia had an APT rate of 91.39 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.66 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.68 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 47.06 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE GLENN YOUNGKIN

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JAY INSLEE
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show Washington had an APT rate of 97.98 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 8.65 percent and an underpayment rate of 0.68 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 29.65 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JAY INSLEE

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE JIM JUSTICE
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and States together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent State-reported data show West Virginia had an APT rate of 88.22 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 7.56 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.79 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 28.95 percent (national average is 44.12 percent).

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. States should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. States can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to your State, best practices from other States, and other support.

THE HONORABLE JIM JUSTICE

Page 2

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE MURIEL BOWSER
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue North West
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the District of Columbia together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that the District of Columbia has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent District-reported data show the District of Columbia had an APT rate of 43.47 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 14.55 percent and an underpayment rate of 4.40 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 80.46 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent District-reported data, your performance in CAPER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States — including the District of Columbia — must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. The District of Columbia should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. The District of Columbia can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide

THE HONORABLE MURIEL BOWSER

Page 2

technical assistance on policy and operational options available to the District of Columbia, best practices from States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Patty Bennett, at 202-809-0228.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE ALBERT BRYAN
Governor of the United States Virgin Islands
5047 (21-22) Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Governor Bryan:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that your State has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent USVI-reported data show the Virgin Islands had an APT rate of 93.12 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 5.95 percent and an underpayment rate of 1.28 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 41.91 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Further, according to the most recent USVI-reported data, your performance in both PER and CAPER are worse.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States — including the United States Virgin Islands — must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. The United States Virgin Islands should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. The United States Virgin Islands can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide

THE HONORABLE ALBERT BRYAN

Page 2

technical assistance on policy and operational options available to the United States Virgin Islands, best practices from States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Lizbeth Silbermann, at 703-407-6248.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

February 8, 2024

THE HONORABLE LOURDES LEON GUERRERO
Governor of Guam
Ricardo J Bordallo Governor's Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagåtña, GU 96910

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as our Nation's foundational safety net for low-income families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to obtain the nutrition they need. SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, improving health, and helping children succeed in school and in life. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Guam together share the responsibility to make sure that households have access to timely and accurate SNAP benefits.

I urge you to prioritize these concerns and take appropriate steps to make sure that Guam has an acceptable application processing timeliness (APT) rate, payment error rate (PER), and case and procedural error rate (CAPER) and meets basic Federal requirements. The most recent Guam-reported data show Guam had an APT rate of 69.81 percent (acceptable performance is above 95 percent), an overpayment error rate of 12.68 percent and an underpayment rate of 3.63 percent in Fiscal Year 2022 (acceptable performance is below 6 percent when the two are added together), and a Fiscal Year 2022 CAPER of 61.34 percent (national average is 44.12 percent). Fortunately, according to the most recent Guam-reported data, your performance in both CAPER and PER is starting to show improvement.

Timely and accurate SNAP processing is critical to meeting the nutrition needs of low-income families and protecting the integrity of SNAP. Americans in need should have access to essential benefits without unnecessary delays. People should not lose access to food because States are unable to review their applications in a timely fashion. States — including Guam — must deliver benefits in the right amounts, to the right individuals, and in the required periods of time. Both timeliness and program integrity are critical to maintain public confidence in States' management of SNAP and to maximize the impact of Federal investment in addressing food insecurity. USDA takes its oversight and monitoring role of State performance seriously and has been proactively engaging with States on these issues.

USDA is ready to work with you to ensure that those in need of nutrition assistance receive timely and accurate benefits. Guam should consider all options available under current law — such as assigning the longest certification periods allowed for the household or streamlining verification — to reduce burden on clients and to increase staff time available for reducing backlogs and focusing on accurate and timely case processing. Guam can also make investments in systems and staffing to improve efficiency, provide excellent customer service, and meet

THE HONORABLE LOURDES LEON GUERRERO

Page 2

Federal standards. USDA stands ready to provide technical assistance on policy and operational options available to Guam, best practices from States, and other support.

We share your desire to build strong service delivery systems that meet the needs of low-income people, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the nutrition security of American families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, at 415-859-1844.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary