



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: June 09, 2017

SUBJECT: Technical Correction to SNAP: Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 Final Rule

TO: All Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

This memo is to clarify a technical error in the final rule Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, published on January 6, 2017.

The final rule revises language at 7 CFR 273.2(b)(1) to allow State agencies the flexibility to consider an application form to be a paper document, on-line document, or a recorded conversation. In making this change, subparagraphs 273.2(b)(1)(i) – (ix) were inadvertently omitted. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), will be publishing a correction in the Federal Register to restore these subparagraphs.

In the interim, States must continue to comply with the requirements included in 273.2(b)(1)(i) – (ix). The language is provided in the attached for reference and reflects the final rule's nomenclature change of "food stamp" to "SNAP". States should contact their regional counterparts with any questions or concerns regarding the final rule or the forthcoming correction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lizbeth Silberman".

Lizbeth Silberman
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

7 CFR 273.2(b)(1)(i) – (ix)

(b) *SNAP application form*—(1) A State agency may consider an application form to be a paper document, on-line document, or a recorded conversation. Each application form shall contain:

(i) In prominent and boldface lettering and understandable terms a statement that the information provided by the applicant in connection with the application for SNAP benefits will be subject to verification by Federal, State and local officials to determine if such information is factual; that if any information is incorrect, SNAP benefits may be denied to the applicant; and that the applicant may be subject to criminal prosecution for knowingly providing incorrect information;

(ii) In prominent and boldface lettering and understandable terms a description of the civil and criminal provisions and penalties for violations of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(iii) A Statement to be signed by one adult household member which certifies, under penalty of perjury, the truth of the information contained in the application, including the information concerning citizenship and alien status of the members applying for benefits;

(iv) A place on the front page of the application where the applicant can write his/her name, address, and signature.

(v) In plain and prominent language on or near the front page of the application, notification of the household's right to immediately file the application as long as it contains the applicant's name and address and the signature of a responsible household member or the household's authorized representative. Regardless of the type of system the State agency uses (paper or electronic), it must provide a means for households to immediately begin the application process with name, address and signature;

(vi) In plain and prominent language on or near the front page of the application, a description of the expedited service provisions described in paragraph (i) of this section;

(vii) In plain and prominent language on or near the front page of the application, notification that benefits are provided from the date of application; and

(viii) The following nondiscrimination statement on the application itself even if the State agency uses a joint application form:

“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

“To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”; and

(ix) For multi-program applications, contain language which clearly affords applicants the option of answering only those questions relevant to the program or programs for which they are applying.