Nevada Healthy Access Project (NHAP) – Demonstration-1 Waiver Request

1. Type of Request: Demonstration-1

2. Date of Request: April 9, 2026 (Amendment 1)

3. State: Nevada

4. Region: WRO

5. Statutory Citations: 7 U.S.C. § 2012(k)

6. **Regulatory Citations**: Utilize 7 CFR § 282.1 to amend 7 CFR § 271.2 (Eligible Food Items)

7. **Summary of Demonstration Project**:

Nevada is proposing to exclude sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and candy from purchases made with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in order to encourage healthier food and beverage choices while maintaining full SNAP benefit amounts.

The proposed Nevada Healthy Access Project (NHAP) demonstration has a targeted implementation date of February 1, 2028, following approval by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This statewide implementation date was intentionally selected to avoid the end-of-year peak retail period, thereby reducing operational burden and minimizing potential implementation challenges for retailers. Under the demonstration, retailers would enforce the proposed exclusions by updating point-of-sale (POS) systems, ideally using Universal Product Code (UPC)-based item identification, and would apply processes consistent with existing retailer practices for federally ineligible items such as alcohol and tobacco. Collectively, these operational changes support a broader strategy to strengthen SNAP through a coordinated public health and social services approach that aligns benefit policy, nutrition education, and comprehensive retailer engagement.

Through intentional cross-sector collaboration, the demonstration is designed to support informed and healthier purchasing decisions, redirect existing purchasing power toward eligible, healthier food options, and advance sustainable public health and social service outcomes for low-income households.

If approved, NHAP would implement six coordinated statewide nutrition education initiatives integrated through the Nevada Division of Social Services (DSS) SNAP-Ed project, Rethink Your Drink Nevada (RYDN), including a statewide RYDN campaign; promotion of Double Up Food Bucks with integrated RYDN messaging; promotion of Farm to SNAP Households incorporating RYDN nutrition education; marketing of eligible alternatives to SSBs and candy using RYDN-informed materials; in-store incentives using RYDN-branded resources; and retailer recognition aligned with broader state-led initiatives and public-facing acknowledgments.

To support successful implementation, Nevada would provide technical assistance and training to retailers and partners in coordination with FNS both before and after the targeted implementation date. The NHAP demonstration also includes coordinated communication, nutrition education, compliance, monitoring, and evaluation plans, with specific considerations for SNAP participants and SNAP-authorized retailers. DSS would oversee statewide implementation in partnership with its EBT vendor,

FNS, retailers, and other public health and social services partners, supported by comprehensive implementation plans, POS-based item blocking, and system updates. Ongoing engagement with retailer associations across Nevada and continued collaboration with retailers, SNAP participants, and state and community partners would further support consistent implementation, minimize disruption, ensure clear, timely, and consistent communication before and after the targeted implementation date.

8. Foods to Be Restricted Under This Waiver

8.1 Proposed Foods for Eligibility Modification

Under the proposed Nevada Healthy Access Project (NHAP) demonstration, the State of Nevada Division of Social Services (DSS) requests a modification to the definition of eligible foods under the Nevada Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Specifically, Nevada proposes to exclude sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and candy from the definition of eligible foods under SNAP.

The proposed exclusions would extend beyond current federal exclusions and would be enforced through retailer systems, ideally using Universal Product Code (UPC)-based filtering. The most practical enforcement approach for Nevada would be informed by retailer input related to point-of-sale system capabilities, inventory management practices, and implementation feasibility.

Nevada's goal is to increase the purchasing power of SNAP benefits for healthier alternatives to SSBs and candy without reducing benefit amounts, while reinforcing nutrition messaging and helping to reduce the risk of diet-related chronic diseases. This approach aligns with SNAP's mission to improve nutrition and health outcomes.

SSBs are defined as non-alcoholic beverages containing added caloric sweeteners introduced during processing, preparation, or at the point of sale. While this waiver restricts the purchase of sugar-sweetened beverages using SNAP benefits, diet beverages are explicitly excluded. Diet beverages are non-alcoholic, carbonated or non-carbonated beverages that contain non-caloric sweeteners such as aspartame, sucralose, or stevia and do not contain added caloric sweeteners such as sugar or high-fructose corn syrup. As such, they do not meet the definition of soft drinks outlined in this waiver and typically contain zero calories, no sugar, and no carbohydrates. Candy refers to confections primarily made with sugar, corn syrup, or high-fructose corn syrup that do not include chocolate, fruits, or nuts.

8.1.1 The term "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages" **(SSBs) includes:**
Ready-to-consume or ready-to-mix non-alcoholic beverages that contain added caloric sweeteners (e.g., sugar, high-fructose corn syrup) and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Soft drinks, whether carbonated or non-carbonated
- Fruit or vegetable drinks or juice blends containing less than 50 percent fruit or vegetable juice by volume with added caloric sweeteners.

8.1.2 The term "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages" **(SSBs) does NOT include:**

- Beverages containing milk, milk products, or milk substitutes (e.g., dairy, soy, rice beverages).
- 100% fruit or vegetable juices or juice blends.
- Beverages that are intended for medical or oral rehydration use.

- Sports or electrolyte-replacement drinks for rehydration use.
- Coffee, tea, coffee or tea beverages, breakfast shakes, protein or nutrition shakes, sports drinks, or meal replacement shakes.
- Plain carbonated or non-carbonated water with no flavor and no added caloric sweeteners (e.g., seltzer or sparkling water).
- Diet beverages (defined as non-alcoholic carbonated or non-carbonated beverages with non-caloric sweeteners and no added sugars or calories), including those specifically represented to enhance energy or alertness.
- Prebiotic or probiotic sodas: Carbonated beverages formulated with ingredients intended to support digestive health, including those that add or support beneficial gut bacteria.
- Frozen treats (popsicles, sorbets, ice creams, etc.).

8.1.3 The term **"candy" includes** but is not limited to:

Gelatin-based confections (e.g., gummies), licorice, hard candies, and products primarily composed of sugar, corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup, or other added caloric sweeteners in the form of pieces, tablets, ropes, chews, or similar confections, regardless of texture, form, coating, or method of preparation.

8.1.4 The term **"candy" does NOT include**:

Chocolate products; protein or granola bars; fruit- or nut-based products; and items made or sweetened with natural, plant-derived sweeteners (e.g., stevia, monk fruit, allulose), artificial sweeteners, or sugar alcohols (polyols) such as xylitol, erythritol, maltitol, and sorbitol.

9. Coordinated Nutrition Education and Retail Initiative Supporting the NHAP Demonstration

Upon waiver approval, the NHAP demonstration would be supported by six coordinated, statewide nutrition education and retailer-focused initiatives integrated through DSS SNAP-Ed project, Rethink Your Drink Nevada (RYDN). The RYDN project is administered through the University of Nevada, Reno Nutrition Program. RYDN has been implemented statewide for more than ten years and promotes healthier beverage choices among SNAP-eligible individuals and families through culturally relevant education, environmental supports, and community-based outreach.

During FFY25, RYDN partnered with 43 food stores, 139 health care clinics and hospitals, and 11 WIC clinics statewide. The effectiveness of RYDN is evaluated using SNAP-Ed evaluation frameworks, with data collected through surveys and community feedback to support continuous quality improvement. The six proposed initiatives would collectively reinforce a coordinated public health and social services approach by aligning nutrition education, benefit maximization strategies, and retailer engagement to promote healthier alternatives to SSBs and candy.

RYDN messaging and resources would be embedded across all initiatives, creating a unified and mutually reinforcing framework that supports informed purchasing decisions, improves access to eligible alternatives, and strengthens statewide implementation consistency. These initiatives use evidence-based approaches and have been refined, tested, and evaluated through more than a decade of implementation in Nevada through Nevada SNAP-Ed. They would leverage existing DSS infrastructure and public health and social services partnerships. Under this integrated approach, RYDN serves as the

unifying framework across the following six initiatives, each of which reinforces the others through consistent messaging, branding, and nutrition education.

9.1 Statewide campaign – Rethink Your Drink Nevada

A statewide RYDN public education and outreach campaign that raises awareness of healthier alternatives to SSBs and may incorporate complementary messaging on healthier alternatives to candy. This initiative would include promotion and access to updated nutrition educational resources relevant to the NHAP, consistent messaging, and guidance for DSS statewide public health and social services partners, community outreach events, and partner networks.

9.2 Promotion of Double Up Food Bucks

Promotion and, if approved, expansion of Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) with integrated RYDN messaging. This initiative would increase the visibility of DUFB incentives and incorporate RYDN nutrition education materials that encourage the use of fruits and vegetables as ingredients to prepare healthier alternatives to SSBs and candy. Subject to separate DSS internal approval, Nevada may expand retailer participation and adjust incentive structures to support healthier purchases.

9.3 Promotion of Farm to SNAP Households

Promotion of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs as part of the Farm to SNAP Households approach. In coordination with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and DSS, this initiative would promote local farms through CSA programs, vouchers, and EBT-authorized partners among SNAP households, increasing access to fresh produce as ingredients to prepare healthier alternatives to SSBs and candy with the support of RYDN healthy recipes and resources.

9.4 Marketing of Eligible Alternatives to SSBs and candy

Marketing of eligible alternatives to SSBs and candy using RYDN-informed materials. This initiative would include educational signage, shelf tags, and promotional materials that highlight healthier beverage and food options in retail and community settings.

9.5 In-Store Incentives to Promote Healthier Alternatives to SSBs and candy

In-store incentives designed to encourage the purchase of eligible alternatives to SSBs and candy would be offered through digital rewards, such as a downloadable RYDN healthy recipe book and, subject to separate DSS internal approval, EBT bonuses (e.g., spend $20, earn $2). Implementation may involve collaboration with the SNAP EBT vendor to automate rewards.

9.6 Retailer Recognition

A retailer recognition initiative that acknowledges SNAP-authorized retailers for promoting healthier beverage and food choices consistent with RYDN messaging. Recognized retailers may receive program

signage, public acknowledgment, and promotional materials that support a healthier retail food environment and reinforce consistent statewide nutrition education messaging.

10. SNAP-Authorized Retailers Considerations

The proposed NHAP Demonstration-2 would expand to statewide SNAP-authorized retailers in Nevada. As of December 2025, the state has approximately 2,065 authorized retailers, including both physical stores and online platforms (e.g., Amazon, Walmart). By February 1, 2028, the targeted implementation day, all retailers would be subject to the same purchase exclusions as described in Section 8 of this document.

Under the proposed NHAP Demonstration-1, Nevada anticipates minimal disruption to retailer operations, as there is no existing federal mandate requiring retail food stores to participate in SNAP. Once FNS approves the proposed demonstration, DSS would assist retailers and retailer associations across Nevada to develop a plan that engages retailers of all sizes statewide and evaluate their needs to update their Purchase Point of Sale (POS) device or systems.

At a minimum, DSS would provide information and technical assistance to retailers to ensure that their POS devices are able to exclude SSBs and candy from SNAP eligible purchases and to answer questions regarding the demonstration project. Information would be provided on a dedicated website where an email address would be provided for retailers to submit questions and to request further technical assistance.

Retailers would only be required to make minimal updates to their inventory management POS software to reflect the excluded food items outlined in section eight of this proposal, in alignment with existing protocols for managing ineligible items such as alcohol and tobacco. Technical assistance and training would be provided by DSS Nevada SNAP, SNAP-Ed, SNAP E&T, SNAP Outreach, SNAP Policy Program Integrity, and EBT Operations, in collaborations with DSS Public Information Officer, DSS public health and social services partners and USDA FNS to ensure consistent implementation through standardized retailer guidance, POS-based item blocking, and compliance monitoring processes.

11. SNAP – Household Considerations

Nevada's proposed demonstration would apply to all SNAP households in Nevada, approximately 257,618 households and 471,768 individuals as of September 2025. By February 1, 2028 targeted implementation day, all SNAP recipients purchasing food in Nevada, across both urban and rural areas, would be subject to the same SSBs and candy exclusions, regardless of household size, demographics, or categorical eligibility.

To support a smooth transition, a statewide communications plan would be launched one year prior to the targeted implementation day. Led by the SNAP, SNAP-Ed, and SNAP Outreach teams in collaboration with statewide partners, the NHAP demonstration would leverage existing DSS public health and social services networks to inform households, support and educate for successful compliance, and ensure uninterrupted access to benefits. This coordinated outreach effort would include

a statewide cohesive nutrition education campaign to educate SNAP participants about healthier alternatives to SSBs and candy and clearly communicate upcoming SNAP purchase changes, alternatives to changes and thereby reduce confusion and support seamless transition for all SNAP recipients.
Nevada's SNAP, SNAP-Ed, and SNAP Outreach teams would work closely with participating households, state agencies, authorized retailers, and community partners to communicate program changes and integrate the sugar-sweetened beverage and candy exclusions in full compliance with SNAP regulations. Additional details are provided in the attached NHAP – Communication Plan.

12. State Agency Considerations

12.1 State-Level System Changes

Nevada does not anticipate any changes to its eligibility system, the Automated Management and Processing System (AMPS), or to its EBT platform for this demonstration. Exclusions on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and candy would be enforced at the retailer level using existing procedures already in place for blocking ineligible items such as alcohol and tobacco.

Nevada would collaborate with FNS, and retailers to assess how current point-of-sale (POS) systems can support alignment between product coding and SNAP-eligible item lists. To ensure consistent implementation through standardized retailer guidance, POS-based item blocking, and compliance monitoring processes, SSBs and candy exclusions would also apply to Summer EBT participants. Nevada would coordinate closely with FNS ensure all systems and retailer data are aligned, tested, and fully prepared for launch.

12.2 Compliance Plans

Nevada would implement a comprehensive approach to ensure consistent retailer compliance with the proposed SNAP exclusions statewide. This includes leveraging public health partners and networks, Nevada SNAP, SNAP-Ed, SNAP E&T, SNAP Outreach, SNAP Policy Program Integrity, EBT Operations, DSS Public Information Officer teams and networks, and community partners to promote alternatives to SSBs and candy. Nevada would provide retailers with health-promotion materials aligned with the proposed exclusions, reinforcing both awareness and compliance. Additional details are provided in the attached NHAP – Compliance Plan.

12.3 Staff Capacity and Training

Nevada would implement and monitor the proposed Nevada Healthy Access Project (NHAP) demonstration using existing staff and infrastructure, with no additional FTEs required. A designated NHAP demonstration team would include staff from Nevada SNAP, SNAP-Ed, SNAP E&T, SNAP Outreach, SNAP Policy Program Integrity, EBT Operations, DSS Public Information Officer teams to oversee implementation, compliance, system coordination, and public messaging.

The team would select a NHAP coordinator/manager to serve as the primary contact for all NHAP activities and deliverables. Eligibility staff, call center representatives, and outreach partners would receive training through internal training material, covering waiver goals, restricted items, participant communication, evaluation indicators, and referral procedures.

13. Communication Plan

Nevada would implement a comprehensive, multi-phased communication and outreach strategy to ensure SNAP participants, newly eligible households, retailers, staff, and community partners are informed about the NHAP demonstration. Eligibility staff, call center representatives, and outreach partners would receive training through mandatory internal materials and established procedures.

Public-facing information would be provided through mailers, updates to the Notice of Eligibility, and a dedicated email address, phone line, and website to address questions from SNAP participants, retailers, and the public. Nevada would coordinate closely with retailers to provide technical assistance and implementation support and would share information with FNS prior to implementation regarding retailer readiness, including identification of retailers that have not completed required self-attestation forms or other compliance tools.

Nevada would also coordinate with FNS on monitoring and compliance activities and incorporate applicable FNS monitoring and compliance policy updates into retailer communications. The communication strategy would be coordinated by the Nevada Division of Social Services (DSS) Public Information Officer, in collaboration with the DSS Eligibility and Payment Unit, and would leverage existing statewide public health and partner networks, including the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (HealNV), the Nevada State Nutrition Action Council, and DSS SNAP-Ed partners.

Nevada would issue public announcements and press releases upon federal approval of the demonstration and again at least six months prior to the targeted implementation day. DSS would work with established partners, including statewide Healthy Eating Active Living initiatives, local health districts, SNAP-Ed implementing agencies, and community organizations—to disseminate consistent messaging through trusted networks, media outlets, digital platforms, and community events.

Messaging would focus on the purpose and scope of the demonstration, promotion of healthier alternatives to sugar-sweetened beverages and candy, and clear timelines and expectations for SNAP participants and retailers. This coordinated approach is intended to support a smooth, well-informed transition throughout all phases of implementation. Additional details are provided in the attached NHAP – Communication Plan.

14. Timeline:

Timelines	Key Activities
OCT 2025 – DEC 2027	SNAP-Ed amendment, waiver submission, public comments, press releases, evaluation contracts, preparation for communication and evaluation plans, trainings,

	communication plan implementation, evaluation plan implementation, and ongoing technical assistance.
AUG, NOV, DEC 2027, & JAN 2028	Retailers will receive statewide notification of SSBs and candy restrictions at six months, 90 days, 60 days, and 30 days prior to implementation (2/1/2028).
FEB 1, 2028	**Targeted Implementation Day**
JAN 2028 – MAR 2028	Technical assistance, data collection, outreach, and 3-month evaluation preparation
APR 2028 – JUN 2028	1st quarterly evaluation report, implement evaluation findings and FNS recommendations, continued technical assistance
JUL 2028 – DEC 2029	Continued statewide implementation, quarter evaluations, quarterly evaluations, ongoing TA, and adjustments based on evaluation results.

15. Justification for Request:

The State of Nevada is seeking federal approval to implement the NHAP demonstration, which aims to support nutrition security, mitigate chronic disease risk associated with sugar-sweetened beverage and candy consumption, and enhance the ability of SNAP households to purchase healthier foods.

Aligned with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the NHAP demonstration advances a coordinated public health and social services approach that integrates SNAP benefit maximization, nutrition education, and comprehensive retailer engagement. By intentionally bridging public health and social service systems, NHAP promotes healthier purchasing behaviors, improves access to healthy foods, and supports sustainable public health and social service outcomes for low-income households.

This proposal responds to persistent public health challenges in Nevada. In 2023, the adult obesity rate was 30.8%, based on self-reported data from National surveys, with significantly higher rates in rural and frontier counties (38.6%). Among youth, 33.5% of 4th and 7th grade students were classified as having obesity, based on measured data collected through Nevada's statewide, school-based BMI screening efforts.[1]

This burden is particularly significant among SNAP-eligible populations, as available aggregated and de-identified administrative data analysis indicates that, as of August 2024, over 800,000 Nevada residents were eligible for SNAP, Medicaid, and/or TANF benefits, including 482,658 individuals (54%) eligible for SNAP [2]. Within this same analysis, BMI data was available for a subset of SNAP participants (n=231,832), of whom approximately 142,410 (61%) met criteria for overweight or obesity based on standard BMI classifications. BMI is a screening indicator used to identify potential weight-related risk.

Additionally, a substantial body of evidence links sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) consumption to metabolic and cardiovascular risk.[3,4,5] Rapidly absorbable sugars in SSBs promote insulin resistance, liver fat accumulation, and elevated uric acid, mechanisms associated with type 2 diabetes, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and atherosclerosis. Reducing SSBs intake has been shown to improve insulin sensitivity, liver function, and lipid profiles, thereby lowering chronic disease risk.[6,7] Excessive sugar intake, particularly from candy, contributes to poor oral health, with Nevada ranking first in the nation for pediatric cavities (15.1%).[8,9]

The CDC identifies free sugars as a primary risk factor for dental caries, as frequent sugar exposure increases acid production by oral bacteria and accelerates enamel demineralization. Supporting this, nationally representative U.S. data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey show that higher sugar intake among children and adolescents aged 2–19 years is associated with an increased

[1] Nevada 2024 Obesity Annual Report, Page 11 and 20.
[2] Nevada Division of Social Services, August 2024 Enrollment - Department of Motor Vehicles, Body Mass Index Match.
[3] Malik VS, Hu FB. Sugar-Sweetened Beverages and Cardiometabolic Health: An Update of the Evidence. Nutrients. 2019 Aug 8;11(8):1840
[4] Nguyen M, et al. Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and weight gain in children and adults: updated dose-response meta-analysis. Am J Clin Nutr. 2023;118(2).
[5] CDC-Nutrition: For Public Health, January 11, 2024. Fast Facts: Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption.
[6] Nguyen M, et al. Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and weight gain in children and adults. Am J Clin Nutr. 2023;118(2).
[7] Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Volume 20, Issue 4, 959 - 961.e1 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2021.05.052
[8] Nevada Department of Health and Human Services – Oral Health Report, April 2024
[9] Dental Health Report 2025: Cavities, Fluoride, Extractions, Visits and Spending, 2022 – 2023 Survey

prevalence of dental caries, including decayed, missing, and filled teeth.[10] Together, this evidence, along with broader research demonstrating the role of free sugars in both oral disease and chronic conditions, indicates that high consumption of added sugars from SSBs and candy contributes to preventable oral health outcomes and long-term disease risk.

These findings informed the design of the proposed NHAP demonstration, which targets modifiable dietary risk factors within the SNAP population to improve health outcomes and reduce long-term disease burden.

15.1 Improving SNAP Administration and Delivery

NHAP demonstration enhances program efficiency by operationalizing the proposed exclusions entirely through existing retailer-level processes already used for alcohol and tobacco. No eligibility or EBT systems redesign is required. As part of the implementation, DSS would require all retailers in Nevada to submit attestations outlining the requirement to block the purchase of SSBs with SNAP benefits in their POS systems and to acknowledge compliance. This attestation would be required annually. This design minimizes administrative burden for both the state and retailers, streamlines oversight, and leverages established compliance tools (attestations, random spot checks, and automated file updates) without creating new layers of procedures.

15.2 Strengthening Healthy-Option Strategies

The NHAP demonstration proposed to reinforce Nevada SNAP-Ed's evidence based Rethink Your Drink Nevada (RYDN) nutrition education program, which has been in place for over ten years and is well established. Although the program is expected to lose NV SNAP-Ed funding after the end of FFY26, DSS is actively working with its staff to identify options to sustain key nutrition education efforts, partnerships, and resources to continue supporting implementation of this waiver. The proposed nutrition education, RYDN, to support the requested demonstration would integrates five complementary initiatives presented in section 8.2 of this document. By pairing the proposed exclusions with evidence based SNAP-Ed initiatives, Nevada proposed to shift SNAP purchasing toward fruits, vegetables, and alternatives to SSBs and candy while maintaining benefit value. SNAP households would receive consistent messaging from nutrition educators, eligibility staff, and retailers creating a feedback loop that aims to reinforce long-term behavior change towards SSBs and candy purchase with SNAP benefits.

15.3 Advancing Healthy Outcomes for SNAP Families

Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and candy together account for more than 11 percent of total SNAP benefits, despite contributing calories primarily from added sugars rather than essential nutrients. SSBs alone represent the second-largest use of SNAP benefits, absorbing 9.3 percent ($608.7 million), which exceeds spending on fruits, milk, or vegetables; candy adds an additional 2.1 percent ($138.2 million). SSBs purchases alone surpass combined expenditures on core nutritional food groups such as fruits and milk, indicating that a substantial share of SNAP benefits is directed toward foods with limited nutritional value. Excluding SSBs and candy from SNAP eligible foods would directly reduce purchases

[10] Chi DL, Scott JM. Added Sugar and Dental Caries in Children: A Scientific Update and Future Steps. Dent Clin North Am. 2019 Jan;63(1):17-33. doi: 10.1016/j.cden.2018.08.003.

of added sugars and support nutrition security by educating and helping SNAP households access alternatives to SSBs and candy. Furthermore, low-income households, who are disproportionately represented among SNAP participants, experience higher rates of diet-related chronic disease, highlighting the importance of aligning SNAP benefits with dietary needs. By redirecting SNAP benefit use toward foods that support health, the NHAP demonstration strengthens nutrition security and advances federal and state public-health priorities, including Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) goals. Integration of education and incentive components with existing Nevada SNAP-Ed infrastructure further ensures efficient use of federal and state resources without duplicating efforts.

16. Evaluation Plan

Nevada will evaluate the Nevada Healthy Access Project (NHAP) demonstration using a mixed-methods approach consistent with USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance and modeled on the FNS evaluation plan example. The evaluation is designed to assess changes in SNAP purchasing behavior, retailer compliance and operations, participant awareness and experience, and overall administrative implementation following the exclusion of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and candy from SNAP-eligible purchases.

Data will be collected through SNAP participant and SNAP-authorized retailer surveys at baseline and at multiple points after implementation, as well as through tracking complaints, inquiries, and technical assistance needs. Reports available under the current EBT contract, including out-of-state transaction reports, will also be used.

Evaluation success will be assessed through key indicators, including reductions in SNAP purchases of SSBs and candy, increased purchases of eligible beverage and food alternatives, consistent and accurate retailer implementation, and improved participant awareness and understanding of allowable SNAP purchases. Nevada will also monitor for unintended consequences, including potential cross-border shopping behavior and operational impacts on retailers.

Evaluation activities will be led by DSS, in coordination with staff from Nevada SNAP, SNAP-Ed, SNAP E&T, SNAP Outreach, SNAP Policy Program Integrity, EBT Operations, DSS Public Information Officer teams and evaluation vendors.

Findings will be summarized in quarterly and annual evaluation updates and submitted to FNS in accordance with federal reporting requirements. Evaluation results will be used to inform ongoing technical assistance, compliance strategies, nutrition education efforts, and future policy decisions related to the demonstration.

17. Proposed Implementation Date

February 1, 2028, following FNS approval.

18. Anticipated Demonstration Costs

Nevada anticipates costs to implement the NHAP demonstration. While the State would reallocate limited FFY25 SNAP-Ed funds to provide initial support for the requested demonstration efforts, additional funding would be needed to fully support the requested demonstration's evaluation plan and nutrition education support beyond 9/30/2026. The proposed NHAP demonstration budget for the two-year implementation period is as follows:

Timeline	Evaluation Support	Nutrition Education Support
October 2026 – December 2027	$200,000.00	$800,000.00
January 2028 – December 2028, Implementation Year 1	$200,000.00	$800,000.00
January 2029 – December 2029, Implementation Year 2	$200,000.00	$800,000.00

19. Anticipated Expiration Date

Two years from the FNS-approved implementation date.

20. Signatures

Signature Requesting Official - State Contact:
Name: Robert H. Thompson, Administrator
Email: rthompson@dss.nv.gov
Telephone: 775-684-0504

Signature of FNS Regional Office Contact:
Name:
Email:
Telephone: