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Date: 1/12/2016 3:38:44 PM
Subject: DSNAP - Fraud Mitigation by DSS
Attachments: DSNAP Press Release_week 6 counties.docx
Application.pdf
DSNAP Instructions.pdf
Crowd Control Announcements.docx
Truth & Consequences - Part 2.pdf
Truth & Consequences - Part 1.pdf

Thank you for meeting with us today about DSNAP. As some background for all of you, I wanted to provide you copies of documents that were used in the process to help your office understand what our Department did to mitigate fraud as much as possible. Attached are five documents that were used in the implementation and application process to mitigate fraud and education both the public and applicants about the criteria for application, the requirement to provide truthful information and the penalties for providing inaccurate information. Amber is reviewing the talking points I prepared to ensure substantive accuracy. We will forward upon receipt.

DSNAP Press Release: First, attached is an example of the press release that went out about each DSNAP event. The same template was used in every county. As you will note, the press release clearly outlines the criteria for qualification. It also states as follows: “All applications are subject to review. If it is determined that an applicant received benefits that he/she was not entitled to, the applicant will be required to pay them back.”

Application: The next document, labeled Application, is the application that was based on the template provided in the FNS toolkit and approved by FNS. Please note that the application contains the following above the signature box: “I understand the questions on this application and the penalties for hiding or giving false information. My household is in need of immediate food assistance as a result of the disaster. I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also authorize the release of any information necessary to determine the correctness of my certification. I certify that I have read the penalty warnings that were given to me. I understand that if I disagree with an action taken on my case, I have a right to request a fair hearing, orally or in writing.

Instructions: With the application, each individual was given the attached document labeled Instructions. In all capital letters, the instructions provide Food Stamp Penalty Warnings which state, for example, “DO NOT give false, incorrect, or incomplete information.” It also outlines the fines and penalties for breaking the rules stating, in part, as follows: “Any member of your household who breaks any of these rules on purpose may not be able to get any more SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months to permanently and may be fined up to \$250,000 or imprisoned 20 years or both for violations of \$5,000 or greater and would be subject to prosecution under other application federal and state laws.”

Crowd Announcements: Crowd announcements were made at every DSNAP site on a regular basis using either intercoms or bullhorns. An example of the Crowd Control Announcement is attached. For

example, the announcement in Greenville and Spartanburg stated the following: “These are not free food stamps. You will be required to repay all benefits obtained fraudulently. You may also be subject to prosecution based on the information provided on your application.” It also stated: “Your application is subject to review by State and Federal authorities to make sure that you were eligible for the assistance that you received... You must tell the truth when you apply for DSNAP benefits or supplements.”

Truth or Consequences Brochure: Every applicant who was approved received the attached Truth & Consequences brochure (attached in two parts). The brochure begins by stating the follow: “It is very important that you give truthful and accurate information on your DSNAP application. If you give false information concerning your income, extent of damage incurred by the disaster or other eligibility criteria, you will be subject to an investigation and may be required to repay benefits that you were not entitled to receive.” The brochure also states that “All applications are subject to review...If you break the SNAP rules you may be disqualified from the program, fined up to \$250,000, and/or put in jail up to 20 years.”

All the best,
Karen

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