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Subject: DSNAP Statement

Good morning,

Below are two versions of the statement re: DSNAP audit to be provided to Gabrielle at WYFF and Tim Smith at Greenville News.

Karen

Version 1:

In the Fall of 2015, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) operated a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) in all 24 counties declared eligible for individual assistance in the October 2015 Presidential Disaster Declaration. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) funds 100% of the benefits issued in a DSNAP program. As background, DSNAP is a one-time payment established by FNS and is equal to the maximum allotment for the household size provided under regular SNAP. To be eligible for a DSNAP benefit, an applicant household must meet three criteria: 1) Reside in a disaster area; 2) Purchase or plan to purchase food during the disaster period; and 3) Experience an adverse effect due to the disaster, including, unreimbursed disaster-related expenses, unreimbursed loss of income and inaccessible liquid resources.

DSS received 209,927 DSNAP applications and the state-wide approval rate of the applications was 85%. This approval rate is consistent with DSNAP approval rates for other flood-related disasters over the last several years. For example, the DSNAP approval rate in flooding events in Maryland and Colorado in 2013 was 85% and the DSNAP approval rate for a flooding event in Illinois in 2013 was 90%.

FNS requires states to complete a post-implementation Quality Control Review of DSNAP to include a random sample of no more than 500 cases. The focus of the Quality Control review is whether the agency followed procedure. FNS does not require states to review or audit the program for recipient fraud. However, to promote and ensure program integrity, DSS conducted a post-DSNAP case review of approximately five percent of approved DSNAP applications state-wide. To determine the number of DSNAP applications to be reviewed from each county, DSS developed methodology criteria designed to review a higher percentage of cases in counties that suffered comparable less damage than other counties. For example, DSS reviewed a higher percentage of approved applications in Greenville and Greenwood counties than it did in Richland or Charleston counties based on the presumption that incidences of fraud are likely higher in those counties that suffered less damage as a result of the historic flooding. Cases were randomly selected for auditing and a two-stage review process was conducted. The Agency determined in its review that 297 of the 9,029 applications reviewed were Intentional Program Violations IPV, commonly referred to as fraud. DSS established claims on any overpayment that stemmed from agency error, unintentional client error or Intentional Program Violations. The Department will follow normal procedures and practices to recoup amounts paid. In particular, DSS benefits Integrity staff will contact the recipient to arrange for a payment agreement. If the client does not pay in full or make arrangements for monthly repayment, the debit will be sent to the Treasurer Offset Program where the debt will be paid through tax intercept.

Version 2:

In the Fall of 2015, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) operated a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) in all 24 counties declared eligible for individual assistance in the October 2015 Presidential Disaster Declaration. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) funds 100% of the benefits issued in a DSNAP program. As background, DSNAP is a one-time payment established by FNS and is equal to the maximum allotment for the household size provided under regular SNAP. To be eligible for a DSNAP benefit, an applicant household must meet three criteria: 1) Reside in a disaster area; 2) Purchase or plan to

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The Department will follow normal procedures and practices to recoup amounts paid resulting from any overpayment. In particular, DSS benefits Integrity staff will contact the recipient to arrange for a payment agreement. If the client does not pay in full or make arrangements for monthly repayment, the debit will be sent to the Treasurer Offset Program where the debt will be paid through tax intercept.

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