



American Association of SNAP Directors

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

34th Annual Education Conference Beyond Traditions October 11 – 14, 2009 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Tentative Workshop Descriptions (as of August 3, 2009)

The following workshops are being planned for the 34th Annual Conference of the American Association of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Directors (formerly known as the American Association of Food Stamp Directors):

But we've always done it that way: Going Beyond Tradition to Simplify Program Rules

As caseloads rise and more people cite hunger as a daily companion, states must learn innovative ways to create efficiencies that will simplify SNAP administration and make the program more accessible. This workshop offers an exciting opportunity to exchange information about ways to use policy options and administrative or demonstration waivers do that very thing. We *can* make our jobs easier while also improving access to SNAP for more eligible individuals and families. Panelists will speak about legitimate ways that states can work within federal law and rules to make the program less burdensome to administer. Participants will learn about what can be done, what other states are doing, how they did it, and what the outcome has been. Remember: Just because we've always done it "that way" doesn't mean we must always do it "that way."

Collaborating to bring SNAP-Ed to Families

Come learn how SNAP-Ed is helping families make healthful food and physical activity choices and how SNAP-Ed can be promoted in local SNAP offices. Chris Sady from the Maine Nutrition Network and Bob Thibodeau, formerly the Maine Food Supplement Program Manager, will share how Maine partners collaborate to implement a multi-faceted SNAP-Ed program in Maine's DHHS offices. They will discuss activities to promote SNAP-Ed and provide nutrition education resources, helpful websites for health and nutrition information and materials that can be modified for your state.

Connecting the Exploding Dots, Payment Accuracy in Difficult Times

In an era of economic stimulus, burgeoning caseloads, and staffing limitations, what's new to meet or improve program performance? What are the latest innovations to assist front line offices in managing their caseloads? Is there something that states have done to elevate their performance in these difficult times, and earn recognition and performance bonuses from FNS? Join representatives of the FNS National Payment Accuracy Workgroup and find out!

Dealing with Disasters – Disaster SNAP

This workshop will cover issues about operating Disaster SNAP. Some of the issues that will be highlighted include:

- when to implement Disaster SNAP,
- waivers for reducing administrative workload after a disaster such as automated replacement of destroyed food and extension of certification periods for existing cases,
- coordinating commodity distribution with Disaster SNAP,
- staffing issues,

- logistical issues,
- automation needs, such as processing disaster applications, automated replacements and supplemental benefits, and federal reporting,
- policy issues,
- training, and
- use of a disaster application form.

Keeping A Finger on the Pulse -- What's the Latest in Medicaid?

Strengthening connections between food assistance and health coverage programs is at the heart of ensuring that low-income families get the benefits they need. With so much happening on both the federal and state levels it is often hard to keep pace. This session will ensure that you don't miss a beat! Experts will talk about the positive developments in Medicaid and CHIP. We'll pay particular attention to changes that might affect overall SNAP operations and the daily activities of eligibility workers who are handling both SNAP and health care. We'll focus on key policies enacted in the 2009 children's health insurance reauthorization, such as new options to use information from a household's SNAP file to facilitate enrollment and retention in health insurance, as well as new federal incentives to simplify program operations. In addition, we'll review the new requirement for the Social Security Administration to forward all Medicare prescription drug applications to state agencies as Medicaid applications -- an exciting new opportunity to connect low-income seniors to SNAP.

Matching SNAP and Medicaid Interview Requirements

In many states, applicants apply for SNAP and Medicaid/SCHIP on one application and eligibility for these programs is determined by the same eligibility worker. The Medicaid and SCHIP programs do not require an interview at application or recertification. This workshop will be a discussion with states and FNS to talk about the possibilities to match SNAP to the Medicaid/SCHIP requirements. States with current FNS interview waivers will also participate in this discussion.

Nutrition and Nutrition Education as a Part of Health Reform

How will SNAP fit in with the Obama administration's health reform priorities? Prevention and wellness, including access to adequate nutrition and nutrition education, will be important to the discussion and implementation. Discussion topics will include:

- What opportunities will SNAP and SNAP-Ed programs have to collaborate with health reform initiatives?
- What administrative implications for SNAP systems might arise?
- What innovations are states engaging in to promote SNAP as a nutrition program?

Re-Inventing SNAP Employment and Training – A New Approach to Meet New Needs

In many states, Employment and Training (E&T) programs were heavily shaped by the post-welfare reform environment. Its work requirements are often mandatory with a heavy focus on finding employment, and also reflect the law's time limit on ABAWDs. Given that ARRA has temporarily suspended the time limit for ABAWDs and that the effects of rising unemployment may undermine the effectiveness of "work first" programs, this may be a good time to reassess E&T in your state. Recently, several states have shifted their efforts to reflect the new emphasis on education and training at the national level. Some states have opted to focus their energy and resources on a few highly motivated volunteers or to maximize funding for their E&T programs through new partnerships with community organizations. With new ways of thinking about E&T programs, states can offer challenging education and training programs that will develop marketable skills (such as nursing or auto mechanics), and provide participants with the resources they need to succeed. This session will review some of the surprising flexibility states have to set the framework of E&T programs, the choices some states have made, the opportunities for new partnerships, and a nuts and bolts discussion of what to do if you want to re-invent your E&T program.

Timeliness with Today's Burgeoning Caseloads

This workshop will explore the procedures and technology enhancements that can help a state achieve and maintain application timeliness despite increasing caseloads.

What's The Latest in SNAP Research?

Representatives from FNS and ERS will share findings from recently completed SNAP research and highlight upcoming studies. This will include FY08 SNAP Household Characteristics, National Inventory on State Modernization Practices, and the upcoming work on the Healthy Incentives Pilot, research associated with the economic stimulus package, SNAP-education models and increasing participation among the elderly and working poor.

OTHER WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:

Creating Efficiencies through Procedural Changes

Outreach & Keeping People Connected

Reducing Negative Error Rates

Technology that Supports Working from Home