



**Eliot Spitzer**  
*Governor*

**NEW YORK STATE**  
**OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001

**David A. Hansell**  
*Commissioner*

## Local Commissioners Memorandum

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	07-LCM-14
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
<b>Date:</b>	October 22, 2007
<b>Subject:</b>	Food Stamp Bonus Award Allocation
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	<b>Program:</b> Tina Sorell (518) 473-3407 <a href="mailto:Tina.Sorell@otda.state.ny.us">Tina.Sorell@otda.state.ny.us</a>  <b>Fiscal:</b> Region 1-4, Carolyn Oleyourryk (518) 474-7549 <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Oleyourryk@otda.state.ny.us">Carolyn.Oleyourryk@otda.state.ny.us</a> Region 5 – Michael Borenstein (631) 854-9704 <a href="mailto:Michael.Borenstein@otda.state.ny.us">Michael.Borenstein@otda.state.ny.us</a> Region 6 – Marian Borenstein (212) 961-8250 <a href="mailto:Marian.Borenstein@otda.state.ny.us">Marian.Borenstein@otda.state.ny.us</a>
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment A: Allocation Attachment B: Plan for Use of USDA-FSP Non-Recurring Bonus Allocation
<b>Attachment Available On Line:</b>	On – yes

### Section 2

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to advise local districts that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) recently awarded a \$9.8 million performance bonus to New York State for payment accuracy improvements in the Food Stamp Program (FSP). A plan to allocate \$7 million of the award to local districts has been approved. The formula developed provides each district with a minimum allocation of \$25,000, with proportionately greater allotments going to districts with greater food stamp caseloads. Funds allocated for districts that choose not to apply for the funding will be re-allocated.

In order to receive its allocation, each local district will be required to file a plan for use of the funds with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). This LCM includes guidance on appropriate, recommended uses of the funds, and directions on how to file a “Plan for Use” application. Attachment A presents a county-by-county list of the allocations, and Attachment B contains the “Plan for Use” application.

## **II. Background**

In recent years, New York State has received several bonus awards from the federal government for our management of the Food Stamp Program. Since much of the credit for the achievements that resulted in these bonuses goes to the local districts, it is fitting that local social services districts receive an opportunity to share in the bonus funding. Because we want to maintain our high FSP payment accuracy rate and also want to expand access to the FSP among potentially eligible working families and other underserved populations, we are asking that these funds be reinvested in the FSP to further these goals. OTDA is currently developing and implementing several statewide initiatives, including: Telephone Recertification, an electronic food stamp application capability, and the implementation of Governor Spitzer’s Working Families Food Stamp Initiative (WFFSI). These efforts will be rolled out statewide over the course of the 2008 calendar year. Districts are strongly encouraged to use these funds to support such efforts as the Working Families Food Stamp Initiative and to work with community partners to implement the facilitated on-line food stamp application.

Local districts will have access to these funds beginning in January 2008, subject to approval of a plan submitted to OTDA. District plans must be received by OTDA no later than November 15, 2007.

## **III. Description of Allowable Expenditures**

Proposals supported by these funds may include, but are not limited to:

- Purchases of hardware/software, subject to State-specified minimum requirements, which support modernization efforts by allowing for easier access to the FSP at initial application and recertification and that furthers innovative program integrity efforts at the local level. This may include the purchase of equipment to be used by community partners participating in the implementation of the facilitated on-line food stamp application.
- Training of food stamp staff and community partners on eligibility issues and related FSP issues.
- Short term (12-month) contracts with local community providers for informational outreach, facilitated enrollment and other activities are also encouraged. This may include establishing a basic technological capability to allow local community partner involvement in the FS Outreach effort, subject to State-specified minimum requirements.

- Partnerships with employers and unions to identify low-income workers potentially eligible for the Food Stamp Program under the Working Families Food Stamp Initiative.
- Hiring of staff to augment efforts to expand FSP enrollment and enhance program integrity efforts.
- Local Media/Outreach expenditures.
- Physical office access, equipment, supplies and technology enhancements related to FSP enrollment efforts. Physical plant renovations would need to follow depreciation rules.

#### **IV. Funding/Allocations**

The formula developed provides each district with a minimum allocation of \$25,000, with proportionately greater allotments going to districts with greater food stamp caseloads. In order to be eligible for allocations, districts must submit a “Plan for Use,” based on criteria listed in **Section 2, III** of this LCM. Forms for submitting proposed allocation use are provided in **Attachment B**.

#### **V. Allocation Submission Process**

Local districts must submit their completed *Plan for Use of USDA-FSP Non-Recurring Bonus Allocation* form by November 15, 2007. OTDA staff will review submissions to determine that plans fall within these guidelines. Pending approval of each district’s plan, districts will be individually notified prior to December 31, 2007. Access to allocations will begin January 1, 2008, with an expenditure deadline of December 31, 2008. The January 1, 2008 start date may affect the local fiscal year for some upstate districts and require county legislative approval.

Completed “Plan for Use” forms should be e-mailed to Tina Sorell at [Tina.Sorell@otda.state.ny.us](mailto:Tina.Sorell@otda.state.ny.us) or mailed to the following address:

Ms. Tina Sorell  
 NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
 Center for Employment and Economic Supports  
 Food Stamp Bureau  
 40 North Pearl Street, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Albany, New York 12243-0001

#### **VI. Claiming Instructions**

Local districts with approved plans may claim reimbursement against their Food Stamp Bonus allocation beginning January 1, 2008, with final expenditures to be made by December 31, 2008. As these activities are considered to be administrative, local districts should code the costs as F-17 functional expenditures. They will be reported on the Schedule D-17, Distribution of Allocated Cost to Other Reimbursement Programs (LDSS-3274) in a column labeled as FS Bonus 2008. These costs will carry forward to a LDSS-3922, Reimbursement Claim for Special Projects, also labeled as FS Bonus 2008. The costs should be reported in the administrative expenditure column on the appropriate lines and claimed for 100% federal share.

Expenditures in excess of the allocation should be claimed on the Schedule D-7, Distribution of Food Stamp Expenditures to Activities (LDSS-2347E) at normal reimbursement rates.

The LDSS-3922 should be completed and submitted to the following address on a monthly basis:

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
Bureau of Financial Services  
40 North Pearl Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12243

Final LDSS-3922 claims must be received by February 27, 2009.

Instructions for completing the Schedule D-7 are found in the Fiscal Reference Manual (FRM), Volume 3 (Volume 4 for New York City), Chapter 14. Instructions for the Schedule D-17 are in Chapter 18 of those volumes. Instructions for the LDSS-3922 are found in Volume 2, Chapter 3 of the FRM.

**Issued By:**

**Name:** Russell Sykes  
**Title:** Deputy Commissioner  
**Division/Office:** Center for Employment and Economic Support

**Food Stamp Bonus Allocations**

	<b>Allocations</b>
New York State	\$7,000,000
New York City	4,051,680
Albany	77,107
Allegany	25,000
Broome	70,848
Cattaraugus	26,427
Cayuga	25,000
Chautauqua	56,183
Chemung	36,068
Chenango	25,000
Clinton	30,760
Columbia	25,000
Cortland	25,000
Delaware	25,000
Dutchess	44,354
Erie	361,037
Essex	25,000
Franklin	25,000
Fulton	25,000
Genesee	25,000
Greene	25,000
Hamilton	25,000
Herkimer	25,000
Jefferson	34,427
Lewis	25,000
Livingston	25,000
Madison	25,000
Monroe	276,794
Montgomery	25,000
Nassau	122,057
Niagara	69,509
Oneida	89,782
Onondaga	143,073
Ontario	25,000
Orange	69,763
Orleans	25,000
Oswego	35,969
Otsego	25,000
Putnam	25,000
Rensselaer	41,242
Rockland	52,688
Saratoga	31,933
Schenectady	47,561
Schoharie	25,000
Schuyler	25,000

**Food Stamp Bonus Allocations**

	<b>Allocations</b>
Seneca	25,000
St. Lawrence	37,287
Steuben	28,411
Suffolk	169,292
Sullivan	25,000
Tioga	25,000
Tompkins	25,000
Ulster	38,700
Warren	25,000
Washington	25,000
Wayne	25,000
Westchester	157,048
Wyoming	25,000
Yates	25,000
ROS	2,948,320



