The Research Packet For
THE SNAP TASK FORCE
Meeting of June 18, 2020

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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

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USDA Approves South Carolina and Utah to Accept SNAP Benefits Online


USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

Washington, D.C., June 16, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of requests from South Carolina and Utah to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. This approval will allow these states to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. South Carolina’s SNAP participation is more than 558,000 individuals, more than 259,000 households, and totals $855 million annually in federal benefits. Utah’s SNAP participation is more than 160,000 individuals, more than 67,000 households, and totals $235 million annually in federal benefits. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump’s whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilotcurrently operational in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The authorized retailers working with all states are Amazon and Walmart. TheFreshGrocer is working with New Jersey and Pennsylvania; ShopRite is working with Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; and Wrights Market is working with Alabama. USDA previously announced Delaware, Mississippi, New Hampshire, and South Dakota would also be implementing online purchasing in the near future. With these states, more than 90% of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.

Multiple stakeholders – notably, state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers that wish to participate – must work together to implement online purchasing using SNAP benefits. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for
states that want to operate online purchasing and provided guidance to interested retailers, which is available online.

**USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in New York and Pennsylvania**


*Department Extends Additional Flexibility for Feeding Children*

*(Washington, D.C., June 10, 2020)* – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced a nationwide extension of another key flexibility for USDA’s child nutrition programs. This waiver allows local partners, who have been working overtime serving meals to kids during the health crisis, the ability to continue serving free meals to all children – regardless of where they live – for the remainder of the summer. This action is part of USDA’s ongoing commitment to making it as easy as possible for local program operators to get food to children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As our nation reopens and people return to work, it remains critical our children continue to receive safe, healthy, and nutritious food. We are extending one of the significant flexibilities provided in March during the coronavirus national emergency to schools, summer sites, and other folks who operate our programs so they can best adapt to the situation on-the-ground and serve our children well,” said Secretary Perdue. “This nationwide flexibility ensures America’s kids will continue to be fed this summer.” The nationwide waiver extended as part of today’s announcement is for *area eligibility*, which allows all children in all areas to receive free meals through USDA’s summer meals programs. Typically, USDA funded summer meals sites are limited to low income areas.
USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in US Virgin Island


Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

(Washington, D.C., June 10, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the US Virgin Islands have been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.

Background:

The U.S. Virgin Islands will be able to operate Pandemic EBT, a supplemental food purchasing benefit to current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the US Virgin Islands had approximately 13,200 children eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch (all children in participating schools).


Under FFCRA, States have the option to submit a plan to the Secretary of Agriculture for providing these benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. State agencies may operate Pandemic EBT when a school is closed for at least five consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

The implementation of Pandemic EBT is in line with USDA’s commitment to keep Americans safe, secure, and healthy during this national emergency and to keep kids fed when schools are closed. USDA is working with states and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators can continue to feed children. This latest action complements previously-announced flexibilities for the Child Nutrition programs that:
II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

COVID-19 June Emergency Allotments to SNAP Households


June 16, 2020 The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that Emergency Allotments (EA) will be issued to some Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient households that received benefits for the month of June 2020. The allotments were authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 and are being issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandum of March 20, 2020. This GIS builds upon GIS 20 TA/DC045, which issued Emergency Allotments for May.

The EA benefits will be issued as supplements only to SNAP households that have not or will not receive the maximum household benefit, based on the household’s size, for June 2020. The supplement will be the difference between the amount of SNAP benefits the household received for the month and the maximum benefit amount for the household’s size. **Only SNAP households that did not receive the maximum benefit for the size of the household for June are eligible for the EA supplement.** This includes households that received a pro-rated, partial issuance for June. SNAP Households that received the maximum benefit, based on their household’s size, for June are not eligible for an EA supplement.

Below is a chart of the maximum monthly benefits by household size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</th>
<th>MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$ 355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$ 509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$ 646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$ 768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$ 921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$1,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$1,164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each additional member $146

The EA supplements will be issued automatically by OTDA. An Exception Report listing those cases that were unable to be automatically issued the EA supplements will be generated for district action. The initial supplemental issuance will be provided to currently active and closed SNAP cases that received benefits less than the maximum amount based on the household’s size for the month of June 2020. Subsequent “clean-up” issuances will be run to issue benefits to newly approved SNAP cases that received benefits for June 2020 that were less than the
maximum benefit for the household’s size. Please Note: Only EA supplements will be automatically issued by OTDA. Districts must continue to process cases and issue regular SNAP benefits for June as usual. The mass issuance of EA supplements for June 2020 will be issued on staggered schedules as described below.

New York City The EA supplements will be issued in ten cohorts; based on the case toe-digit, on 6/15/2020 through 6/19/2020 and from 6/22/2020 through 6/26/2020.

Rest of State The EA supplements will be issued in eight equal cohorts, divided on a random basis across each district’s caseload, from 6/23/2020 through 6/26/2020 and from 6/30/2020 through 7/3/2020. In other words, each district’s caseload will be randomly divided into eight groups, and the first group will get the supplemental issuance on 6/23, the second group on 6/24 and so forth. Benefits will be available to the household the following day.

Social Media Announcement

![EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SNAP HOUSEHOLDS](https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC055.pdf)

All New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will receive the maximum monthly benefit for June. Those not previously receiving the maximum benefit will receive a one-time payment that will vary by household size.

For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19](https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19)

General Information System (GIS) Message-COVID-19 Telephone Signature Waiver Option Extension

May 29, 2020. In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) released GIS 20 TA/DC049 advising social services districts (districts) of the ability to accept telephonic signatures on applications filed over the telephone or submitted without a signature for individuals and families who are applying for or receiving assistance through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-only, Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid (MA) on a TA case. The purpose of this GIS is to inform districts that FNS has extended its approval of a temporary adjustment to the requirements for recording telephonic signatures for SNAP applications filed over the telephone or submitted without a signature to June 30, 2020. During the time that this SNAP adjustment is in effect, TA, or MA on a TA case applications may also be accepted over the telephone. Districts choosing to implement telephonic applications must adhere to the guidelines as outlined in GIS 20 TA/DC049 and must also use the OTDA program-specific script (attachments 1 and 2 GIS 20 TA/DC049). The expiration of provisions contained in this message may be extended by future guidance.


General Information System (GIS) Message, COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Food Benefits


May 22, 2020. The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food benefits will be issued to all New York State households with school-age children who receive free or reduced-price school meals (FRPMs) under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

This action is part of a provision set forth by the Families First Corona Virus Response Act of 2020 and will be issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandum of March 20, 2020. On May 6, 2020, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) received federal approval of New York State’s plan to operate and administer P-EBT food benefits.
P-EBT food benefits will be issued directly by OTDA, and districts have no responsibility for the administration of the P-EBT benefits. However, since these benefits will be issued through the EBT system and since approximately 1.3 million of the 2.1 million children who are eligible for the P-EBT benefits qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch based on their eligibility for SNAP, Temporary Assistance (TA) or Medicaid (MA), it is inevitable that local districts will receive inquiries about these benefits. Families with eligible children will automatically receive P-EBT food benefits for each eligible child for the period that schools were closed for this academic year due to COVID-19. There is no application process for these benefits.

The issuances will be based on SNAP, TA and MA data used for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) direct certification process, and eligibility rosters from school districts and schools participating in the NSLP.

USDA has established the daily P-EBT food benefit rate at $5.70 per child. The monthly P-EBT food benefit for each eligible child has been calculated, based on the number of days schools were closed during the months for which the benefits are being issued, as follows: • March – $68.00 • April – $125.00 • May – $119.00 • June – $108.00 The maximum benefit per child will be $420.

Under New York State’s federally-approved P-EBT plan, all children eligible for the P-EBT benefits will be served in three payment cohorts:
• Children ages 5 through 18 who were active in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance (TA) households as of March 2020. OTDA estimates that there are approximately 756,500 such children statewide. The P-EBT benefits for these children will be issued into the SNAP EBT account of the cardholder for the SNAP or TA case of which the children are members. For these SNAP and TA households, the benefit availability will be split, with the benefits for March and April ($68 + $125 = $193) being available on a staggered schedule in late May, and the May and June benefits ($119 + $109 = $227) being available on a staggered schedule in late June.

OTDA estimates that there are 513,000 children in this second payment cohort. For children in these MA-only households, benefits for March through June ($68 + $125 + $119 + $109 = $420) will all be made available on a staggered schedule in late June. Benefits issued for children in these households will be issued into a SNAP EBT account that will be linked to the Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) of either an adult member of the household or, if there is no adult in receipt of MA, on the CBIC of the oldest child in the household.
• Children and young adults not included in the first two payment cohorts. This cohort includes the following groups: - children ages 3-4 who may be participating in NSLP FRPMs in pre-kindergarten programs and in receipt of SNAP or TA; - young adults with disabilities who are ages 19-21, still in school and receiving FRPMs, and in receipt of SNAP or TA; and, - all other children and young adults receiving FRPMs and participating in the NSLP. These are
children who may have been certified for eligibility by their school or school district, or who attend school in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district or school where all children receive FRPMs. The information obtained to pay this third cohort all will come from school district and school NSLP participation rosters. Payments will be issued to the parent/guarding of these children on a separate CBIC for each child linked to an EBT account. If Benefits for March through June ($68 + $125 + $119 + $109 = $420) will all be made available to this cohort on a rolling issuance schedule, as school district rosters are received and processed, beginning in early July and concluding no later than August 31, 2020.

Monthly Caseload Statistics – March 2020


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE CASES
March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Family Assistance-FP</th>
<th>Safety Net Assistance</th>
<th>Supplemental Security Income</th>
<th>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>249,522</td>
<td>73,083</td>
<td>175,539</td>
<td>669,143</td>
<td>1,470,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>173,459</td>
<td>42,738</td>
<td>130,721</td>
<td>398,246</td>
<td>873,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of State</td>
<td>76,063</td>
<td>30,945</td>
<td>45,118</td>
<td>270,897</td>
<td>602,095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. New York City Human Resources Administration

MEMORANDUM: Manual Process for Issuing Vault Cards to CA and SNAP Applicants CBIC

SUBJECT: Manual Process for Issuing Vault Cards to CA and SNAP Applicants Effective Monday May 18, 2020 a manual process was developed to issue vault cards to CA (Cash Assistance) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applicants who apply for assistance and need a CBIC (Common Benefit Identification Card) can be referred to one of the seven open Job Centers to give some relief to the Brooklyn OTC (Over the Counter) site.

Applicants who receive a vault card will still get a permanent card in the mail.

The seven open Job Centers include Waverly (013), Crotona (46), Rider (38), Clinton Hill (67), Coney Island (63), Richmond (99) and Queens (53). Applicants will be notified during their interviews that if they are eligible for an immediate needs grant and/or expedited SNAP benefits, and are unable to wait for their CBIC card to be mailed, that they can go to any of the seven applicant facing locations to pick up a temporary vault card.

Until the systemic routing is available when an individual reports to one of the open locations, staff will: • Give the individual a manual D&C ticket from the Kiosk. • Notify D&C of the applicant waiting to be serviced. • Once the systemic routing is available, applicants will be able to route themselves for D&C for a vault card. Managers of the seven Job Centers will be notified of this new process effective Monday and once the automatic routing is up and running. Signage is being placed in the seven locations to advise the applicants of the "Vault Cards" being available in the locations.

POLICY BULLETIN #20-27-ELI-RECERTIFICATION PERIODS EXTENSION DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Revisions to the Original Policy Bulletin This policy bulletin is being revised to announce the further extensions of recertification periods for Cash Assistance (CA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases with recertification periods expiring at the end of March, April and May 2020, and provide an additional guidance for cases with the recertification periods expiring at the end of June 2020.

Purpose Revised The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Job Center, and HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA) Center staff regarding six month extensions of the recertification periods for CA and SNAP cases due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This policy bulletin is informational for all other staff.

New Previously, CA and SNAP cases with the recertification periods expiring at the end of March, April and May 2020 were granted three months extensions of the
recertification periods due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. for an additional three months, **for a total of six months These extensions were automatically extended.** In addition, the recertification periods for CA and SNAP cases expiring at the end of June 2020 will be automatically extended for six months. There may be more future changes. Extending the recertification periods will ensure that households who are unable to comply with the recertification requirements or whose recertification cannot be processed timely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic do not lose access to their CA and SNAP benefits.

The Welfare Management System (WMS) will run mass of extensions for CA and SNAP recertification cases that are due to expire at the end of June 2020. New The following cases are not eligible for an automatic extension:

- If the recertification was already processed;
- If closed or pending closing due to excess income, failure to provide required documentation or another reason.

**Any household whose recertification period has been extended must recertify before the end of the extension period.**

Revised Note: In this context, “scheduled for” and “expiration” refer to the end of the SNAP authorization period, not the month in which the interview is scheduled for CA cases or that SNAP cases may start calling on-demand.

Examples of the extension as follows:

- Any case originally scheduled for recertification by March 31, 2020, and did not get processed, must be recertified by September 30, 2020.
- Any case originally scheduled for recertification by April 30, 2020, and did not get processed, must be recertified by October 31, 2020.
- Any case originally scheduled for recertification by May 31, 2020, and did not get processed, must be recertified by November 30, 2020.
- Any case originally scheduled for recertification by June 30, 2020, and did not get processed, must be recertified by December 31, 2020.

New Note: The extensions for cases that are due to expire in June 2020 will be processed by May 14, 2020.

POLICY DIRECTIVE #20-04-ELI -CHANGE OF RESIDENCE (MOVING) OUT OF NEW YORK STATE

June 11, 2020

New York City may authorize a moving out of state allowance to applicants/participants moving to another state or country when it is determined that the applicants/participants: Revised • Have residence in another state or country; • Belong in another state or country; • Have legally responsible relatives or friends able or willing to support or aid in supporting them; and • Authorization of a moving out of state/country allowance is in the best interest of both the person requesting the move and the State. Refer to PD #01-31 The Human Resources Administration (HRA) is
responsible for issuing benefits until applicants/participants physically move out of the state, at which time the case is closed.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rules require that all states' Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) systems be interoperable so that SNAP applicants/participants in one state or territory can use their EBT cards to access their SNAP benefits while in another state or territory. However, Puerto Rico does not fall under the jurisdiction of the interoperability regulations. SNAP participants moving to Puerto Rico For SNAP participants moving to Puerto Rico, the remaining SNAP benefits on the household’s EBT card must not be converted to cash benefits. These households will have to reapply for assistance in Puerto Rico.

**POLICY BULLETIN #20-29-OPE-INTRODUCTION OF THE INVALID SUBMISSION MOBILE DOCUMENT UPLOAD NOTICES (FIA-1139A AND FIA-1139B)**

June 02, 2020

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform the Centralized Indexing Unit (CIU), Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Cash Assistance (CA) staff that:

- “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Change Report Form” (LDSS-3151)
- Periodic Report (LDSS-4310) and the Follow-Up To The Periodic Report form, (LDSS-4310A), submitted by using Mobile Document Upload, are now acceptable submission methods. Staff must index the reports by the correct document ID (Correspondence/Notices)

A change case activity will be created in POS for the LDSS-3151. The LDSS-4310 and LDSS-4310A have been removed from the FIA-1139b This policy bulletin is informational for all other staff.

The Mobile Document Upload provides applicants and participants with a document submission method that reduces the possibility of their case being denied or closed for failure to provide documents that are necessary to verify certain eligibility factors related to their case.

The Mobile Document Upload is not intended to be used for the following forms:

Forms that cannot be submitted using the Mobile Document Upload app.
- “Application for Certain Benefits and Services” (LDSS-2921);
- “Recertification Form for Certain Benefits and Services” (LDSS-3174);
- “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SNAP) Application/Recertification" (LDSS-4826);
- “NYSNIP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits Interim Report (NYC)” (LDSS-4836 [NYC]); and
• “Mail-in Recertification/Eligibility Questionnaire” (M-327h)

Human Resource Administration: Mediation Model Liaison Update

As a result of the COVID 19 emergency, SNAP has had to change the organization of the manner in which cases are processed. HRA temporarily reassigned the HRA Mediation Liaisons until further notice. All mediations cases are to be email to Stephanie Gooding with copies to Earline Jenkins and Derek Sigh

Stephanie Gooding: goodings@hra.nyc.gov
Earline Jenkins: jenkinsea@hra.nyc.gov
Derek Singh: singho@hra.nyc.gov

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

Food Bank For New York City Fighting More Than COVID-19 - Unmasking The State of Hunger In NYC During A Pandemic

https://www.foodbanknyc.org/research-reports/

June 2020 – As New York City continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic shutdown, another crisis has unfolded: New Yorkers struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families. More than 500,000 New Yorkers are facing unemployment, and are forced to make impossible choices between rent, utilities, medications, and food – while others face medical risks that require them to stay home and prevent them from acquiring groceries. Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens have reported an increase in the overall number of visitors compared to the previous year. In this context of existing hunger in NYC, compounded by the economic pressures created by the pandemic, a number of food pantries and soup kitchens have been forced to close. This report offers special insight on how food insecurity has changed citywide as a result of COVID-19, especially in communities hit hardest by closures of local emergency food providers.

Feeding America - Join Feeding America for a Virtual Fly-In from June 22-25, 2020

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/450ee8aba741461b85f53f4c72992596

Next week, we’ll be nearing the end of the month — a time when millions pay rent. Amid the pandemic, far too many families are facing economic hardship, making it difficult to afford housing and other basics like food.
next week, you can take action alongside other network members to help ensure our communities in need have enough to eat during, and after, the coronavirus crisis.

Join Feeding America for a Virtual Fly-In from June 22-25, 2020 and all the activities taking place including the Virtual Fly-In will include a Town Hall with Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Feeding America CEO, and Hill champions on June 22 from 4-5 pm ET / 3-4 pm CT and a #ShortenTheLines Tweetstorm on June 24 from 3-4 pm ET / 2-3 pm CT.

SNAP Resources

DSS email outreach for Online Access HRA:  
dssoutreach@dss.nyc.gov

Food Bank Food Pantry Link: https://www.foodbanknyc.org/get-help/  
Food Bank SNAP Link: https://www.foodbanknyc.org/snap-assistance/  
Food Bank SNAP Call Center: 212-894-8060

Action NY: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/legal-services/actionny.page  
ActionNYC is for every immigrant New Yorker. It offers free, safe immigration legal help in a network of trusted community organizations and schools.**You must make an appointment to receive services. To make an appointment, call 1-800-354-0365 between 9AM-6PM, Monday - Friday or call 311 and say "ActionNYC"**

ActionNYC is a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the City University of New York.

FRAC The coronavirus or COVID-19 has become a global crisis that has impacted Latino children and families. This crisis has exposed the critical role that the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) plays in helping families buy food during low-income seasons or difficult times.

This online meeting will address the changes that have been made to the SNAP program under COVID-19 and will also present the challenges, as well as best practices and lessons learned, that Latinos experience in the SNAP enrollment process.

https://unidosus.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bmlQpBawTY6W5yt0Jb1GgQ