

Cathy Cooper
Authorized Signature

Number: SPD-AR-10-009
Issue Date: 2/18/2010

Topic: Food Benefits

Due Date:

Subject: Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): |

Action Required:

Eligibility data for the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program (SFDNP) will be pulled from CMS and FSMIS on April 1, 2010. To be eligible for the program seniors must meet ALL of the following eligibility factors:

- Be 60 years old as of April 1, 2010,
- Be receiving Medicaid and/or SNAP benefits on April 1, 2010,
- Have income less than \$1219 for an individual or \$1640 for a couple,
- Be living in a situation where food is not provided for them.

It is important that income and service eligibility are coded accurately on CMS. Since the database is pulled from CMS and FSMIS, cases that have been updated in ACCESS but not integrated may show as not eligible. Please be sure to have all cases accurately coded in ACCESS and integrated before April 1, 2010. Once the data base is pulled, we are not able to backdate eligibility for this program and no additional seniors can be added to the list.

The SFDNP is based on a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This year the funding **WILL NOT** be sufficient to provide benefits to every senior who is eligible. Mid-May seniors who are eligible for the program will be sent a letter they may return if they choose to participate in the program. Central office will send out the letters and process the returned letters. Benefits will be distributed until the funding is exhausted. Denial notices will be auto-generated from central office, and mailed to seniors when the program closes for the year. Any senior who returns the letter after the program is closed will be placed on a waiting list and notified if additional funding is provided later

in the season.

Seniors should be encouraged to sign and return the letter of interest as soon as possible to increase their chance to participate in the program. The letter will be yellow to distinguish it from other DHS materials. Seniors who are concerned about sending their signature through the mail, have the option to return their letter to the local office or place it in an envelope and send it to central office. If a letter is returned to your office, please forward to the following as soon as possible:

Department of Human Services
Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program
Attn: Lauren Mitchell
500 Summer St NE, E12
Salem, OR 97301-1076

Seniors who receive SFDNP benefits in 2010, will receive \$32 in farm direct checks that they can use at certified farm stands and farmers markets to purchase fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs. This year the checks will be issued in \$4.00 increments. Seniors can use the checks between June 1 and October 31. Any checks that are lost or stolen can not be replaced.

A website is being created to provide seniors with nutritional information, healthy aging information, farm stand and farmer's market locations, recipes and information on produce selection and storage. The website: <http://www.sfdnp.dhs.oregon.gov/> will be available to staff and seniors by late March. Seniors will not receive nutritional information in their packets this year.

A few farm stand/farmer's market directories will be sent to each office to allow seniors to research farm stand locations if they do not have internet access. The directories will be provided when they have been published by Department of Agriculture.

Reason for Action: Change in SFDNP program benefits for 2010.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: SPD Policy/OPS

If you have any questions about this action request, contact:

Contact(s):	Lauren Mitchell		
Phone:	503-945-6479	Fax:	503-947-5357
E-mail:	Lauren.e.mitchell@state.or.us		