

## **Partnership Fund Pilot Award Summary**

**Concept Name:** National Accuracy Clearinghouse

**Lead Agency:** Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

**Funding Level:** \$2.5 million

**Number of States/Pilot Sites:** Up to 6 states

**Summary of Funded Concept:** The pilot will establish an interstate database of program information to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) eligibility determinations by allowing States to determine whether an applicant is already receiving benefits in a different participating State. Existing interstate data match capabilities often have difficulty providing timely information; this pilot will inform the development of more timely, large-scale data matching mechanisms that include an array of programs. In addition, the pilot will test the database as a mechanism to continue SNAP or D-SNAP payments in a disaster or other emergency situation by enabling States to issue benefits on one another's behalf. States may work with FNS and other relevant agencies to include additional programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Medicaid in the pilot database. The evaluation will assess the ease with which states can provide the data, the utility of the data, and the potential to use the data to facilitate enrollment for individuals and families that move from one State to another. The data exchange for SNAP and D-SNAP is authorized by 7 CFR 272.1(c)(1)(i) and 272.8(a)(2).

### **Addressing the Partnership Fund's Goals**

- Reduce improper payments by identifying and eliminating duplicate participation in SNAP, D-SNAP, and potentially other programs
- Improve administrative efficiency by reducing manual verification of eligibility information
- Improve and protect program access for eligible beneficiaries by using more timely program information to check for claimant eligibility and ensuring continued access to benefits for eligible beneficiaries in a disaster situation

**Changes from the Original Pilot Concept Submission:** The original submission called for a four-phase pilot project based on an existing initiative underway in certain States that would gradually expand to include other States. The funded pilot concept includes up to six states to be selected by FNS. The original submission also called for the establishment of a Clearinghouse Governance Council. While governance is a critical function, the nature of governance will be determined by the participating states in cooperation with FNS, OMB, and any other agencies whose programs are incorporated.

**Original Pilot Concept Proposal Submitted By:** An independent work group led by the State of Florida, in consultation with the Collaborative Forum.