

Receives performance bonus for excellence in SNAP program.

Nebraska ranks first in the nation in properly and accurately processing denials, suspensions or terminations of benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) distribution, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). SNAP was formerly called 'food stamps.'

Nebraska's SNAP negative error rate was zero (0.00) percent, while the national average negative error rate was 8.43 percent in fiscal year 2010. Nebraska will receive a performance bonus of \$363,960 for this accomplishment.

"The SNAP program is critical in meeting the nutritional needs of children, older adults, and people with disabilities," said Todd Reckling, director of the Division of Children and Family Services in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). "Our achievement is a direct result of the outstanding job staff are doing, and their commitment to making sure clients receive the best, most accurate services possible."

Nebraska has had a "zero" negative error rate going back as far as 2006.

"The low error rate means recipients receive the full extent of their benefits," said Jill Schreck, DHHS Economic Assistance Unit Administrator. In May 2011, the SNAP program distributed \$21,652,375 in benefits to buy nutritious food and served approximately 76,550 households.

The USDA report includes all 50 states and three territories.

Best Negative Error Rate (measures the correctness of the agency to deny an application, or suspend or terminate benefits of a participating household):

- Nebraska – 0.00
- South Dakota – 0.25
- North Dakota – 1.24
- Oregon – 2.12

People can check to see if they are eligible for SNAP benefits at <http://accessnebraska.ne.gov/>. They can then complete an online application to submit electronically or print a paper application to complete and mail to a DHHS office. People can also make an appointment for a face-to-face interview.