



STATE OF FLORIDA
AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION

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Reference – Mini-Simplified Food Stamp Program

AWI Communiqué

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Process Manager, One-Stop and Program Support

SUBJECT: Mini-Simplified Food Stamp Program

PURPOSE: To inform the Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) of the approval of the Mini-Simplified Food Stamp Program, this will allow Florida to maximize Community Service and Work Experience participation hours.

Background:

In light of the work requirements under the Deficit Reduction Act, Florida submitted an application to operate a Mini-Simplified Food Stamp program. A Mini-Simplified Food Stamp program allows Florida to maximize Community Service and Work Experience participation hours. The United States Department of Agriculture responded by accepting the application.

The calculation for Community Service activity is the sum of the TANF and Food Stamp benefits divided by Florida's minimum wage, divided by 4.3. The One-Stop Service Tracking (OSST) system will need to be updated to apply the above calculation to the Work Experience activity. This change will not have an impact on the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Program or Optional Workfare Program (OWP). The adoption of the Mini-simplified Food Stamp program will allow Florida to "deem" hours for core participation. If the family participates for the maximum hours based on the Work Experience and Community Service calculation, the family will have satisfied the required number of hours in a core activity.

Action Required:

Participants assigned to Work Experience Combined with Education should be assigned to the minimum number of hours based on the new calculation. If the participant is assigned to an educational activity, the educational activity should be properly coded. The assignment of participants to Work Experience should also be based on the federal definition and follow the federal guidelines. Those participants assigned to Community Service Work Experience should be evaluated and assigned to Community Service based on the Interim Final Rule definition and guidelines for this activity.

AUTHORITY

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