

NEWS *from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service*

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For Immediate Release: August 24, 2010

USDA UNDER SECRETARY RECOGNIZES MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR EXCELLENCE IN SNAP PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon (L) recognized the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) for their excellence in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) administration during a ceremony in Charleston, S.C. on August 10, 2010 (See photo, page 2). MDHS Executive Director Don Thompson (RC) and MDHS Division of Economic Assistance Director Cheryl Sparkman (LC) accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

“We’re proud of the quality work that Mississippi is doing to enhance the administration of SNAP,” Under Secretary Concannon said. “I want to thank them for not only raising the bar but for also being part of the larger effort of the 23 state agencies gathered here from the Southeast, Southwest, and Mountain Plains areas of our country whose contributions are helping USDA to improve SNAP program access, end childhood hunger and fight obesity in these states and throughout the nation.”

The Tri-Regional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Conference featured sharing and implementation of ideas from USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service and the various states. The attendees explored new and innovative approaches to administering the SNAP, shared best practices and discussed program changes and implementation. Mississippi was recognized for its excellence in Financial Management, Quality Control and outstanding performance in Claims Collection in SNAP Program Administration.

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From left: USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon; MDHS Division of Economic Assistance Director Cheryl Sparkman; MDHS Executive Director Don Thompson; and USDA Food and Nutrition Service Southeast Region Administrator Don Arnette (R).

SNAP FACTS

Mississippi Statewide Numbers for State Fiscal Years (SFY)

SFY	% SNAP Recipients*	Households/Persons Receiving Benefits*	Applications**	Value**
2010	19.9	249,678/578,091	216,391	\$828M
2009	17.8	222,581/522,353	205,396	\$621M
2008	15.8	188,576/451,127	173,067	\$484M
2007	14.8	180,415/430,520	172,308	\$439M
2006	13.8	164,086/404,165	180,490	\$459M

- From 2006 to 2010, SNAP benefits in Mississippi rose 6% to over \$828M in assistance.
- Food stamp benefits impact local economies by generating an estimated \$9.20 in economic activity for every \$5 in SNAP benefits used.
- In June 2009, more than 578,000 individuals participated in the program in Mississippi and 36M nationwide.
- Federal eligibility guidelines can be found at:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/applicant_recipients/eligibility.htm
- Requests for applications can be made by phone or fax; applications can be picked up at any county DHS office or can be downloaded from the MDHS website at:
http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/ea_application.html