

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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Submitted via Federal Rulemaking Portal

Program Design Branch
Program Development Division
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON NOTICE: FNS DOCKET ID: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE-2024-07377; SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, FEDERAL REGISTER VOLUME 89, NO. 68, PAGE 24423 (APRIL 8, 2024)

To Whom It May Concern:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) submits the following comments for your consideration regarding the Notice of Agency Information Collection Activities (the Notice) entitled *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Demonstration Projects.*

The Notice seeks to collect information on activities associated with SNAP demonstration projects, as well as the process for completing the required annual SNAP State Options Report. The CDSS is writing to provide the requested feedback.

The CDSS currently follows the process described in the Notice for preparing and submitting new demonstration project requests, modifications or extensions, and data reports. As such, CDSS supports the continued use of this process as it fulfills the requirements outlined in <u>7 CFR 272.3(c)</u>.

The Notice describes an alternative process for completing the SNAP State Options Report, which would entail "30 specific questions to State agencies concerning implementation of various existing SNAP policy options." Given the potential breadth and unknown nature of the questions, it is difficult to appropriately assess the workload impact and operational challenges associated with the compliance of this request. The burden of providing this additional information is unknown until the CDSS can assess the availability of the type of

information that may be requested (e.g., determining whether the additional information requested is readily available, if it would require amending an existing county report, or if it would require producing a new report). As such, there is potential for significant automation costs if CDSS were required to collect new data or develop a new report that is not already available.

To ensure the accuracy of our responses, CDSS requests that any questions related to the new process for completing the SNAP State Options Report be received at least 90 days before the federal fiscal year begins. This will give our team adequate time to track any additional data or information required to provide a complete and timely response.

For additional questions, please contact Kathy Yang, Bureau Chief, CalFresh Policy and Employment, CDSS, via email at kat.yang@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ANDREA BRAYBOY, Chief CalFresh and Nutrition Branch

Family Engagement and Empowerment Division