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FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Increase in SNAP Gross Income Test Level for Households with Earnings

EFFECTIVE DATE: To Be Determined

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Background

As part of the 2016 State-of-the-State, Governor Cuomo has announced that New York State will raise the Gross Income Test (GIT) level from 130 percent to 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) for all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households with earned income.

It is projected that an estimated 750,000 working households in New York State currently fail the 130% FPL GIT but would be eligible for a SNAP benefit if the income level of the GIT were raised to 150% of FPL. Raising the GIT to 150% FPL is estimated to deliver an approximately \$688.5 million in additional federal SNAP benefits to New Yorkers annually, with an estimated annual economic impact of \$1.27 billion.

Under current SNAP rules and interpretation of federal law, states have flexibility in setting categorical eligibility income limits for SNAP households. See Administrative Directives 07 ADM-09 and 09 ADM-06 for information on current broad-based categorical eligibility policy.

Program Implications

OTDA is working to implement the required systems and notice changes necessary to implement the increase in the GIT. Once an expected date of implementation has been determined, further information will be provided. This change to SNAP eligibility will not be effective until the required systems and notice changes are in place.