

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**Center for Employment and Economic Supports**

June 15, 2012

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**TO:** Commissioners, Administrators, FS Center Directors, Job Center Directors, Staff Development Coordinators

**FROM:** Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Finger-Imaging Requirements in the Food Stamp Program

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT:** Food Stamp Bureau, at 1-800-343-8859 ext. 3-1469

**Purpose**

**The purpose of this GIS is to inform local social services districts (LSSDs) that current regulations, requirements and local district plans for finger imaging in the Food Stamp Program remain in effect until proposed regulations to eliminate all finger imaging requirements for purposes of the Food Stamp Program become effective.**

**Background**

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has proposed changes to State regulations to eliminate all finger-imaging requirements for purposes of the Food Stamp Program.

OTDA's May 30, 2012 regulatory proposal does not change Temporary Assistance finger-imaging requirements, and **local districts must continue to comply with current finger-imaging procedures for Temporary Assistance households.**

This GIS responds to questions OTDA has received from LSSDs regarding the procedures local districts should follow until the new regulations become effective.

**Program Implications**

To eliminate all finger-imaging requirements in the Food Stamp Program, OTDA has proposed to amend sections 351.2, 384.3, 387.9 of Title 18 NYCRR and to repeal section 388.8 of Title 18 NYCRR. This proposed rule was published in the May 30, 2012 *New York State Register* (Vol. XXXIV, Issue 22).

The State will be accepting public comments on the proposed rule to eliminate finger-imaging requirements in the Food Stamp Programs through Monday, July 16, 2012, as the public has 45 days following publication of a regulatory proposal to comment on a proposed regulation.

Following the period of public comment, all submitted comments will be reviewed and evaluated, and an Assessment of Public Comment will be written. After this process concludes and when the proposed amendments become effective, OTDA will issue a policy directive to all LSSDs to advise you of the effective date of the elimination of the finger-imaging requirement in the Food Stamp Program.

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**Local social services districts must continue to comply with current regulations and their current Food Stamp finger-imaging plans until they receive notification of the effective date of the new regulations and instructions from OTDA regarding new policies and procedures.**

OTDA's May 30, 2012 regulatory proposal does not change Temporary Assistance finger-imaging requirements. **LSSDs must continue to comply with current finger-imaging procedures for Temporary Assistance households.**