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

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

**SUBJECT:** Participation of 18-21 Year Olds in NYSNIP

**DATE:** September 5, 2012

**CONTACT PERSON:** SNAP Bureau, at 1-800-343-8859 ext. 3-1469

**Background**

We recently have received questions about the participation of 18-21 year olds, residing in the household of their parent(s), in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Program (NYSNIP), and also about the participation of single adult SSI recipients residing in a household with their child or children under the age of 22.

**Please note that effective August 29, 2012, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the Food Stamp Program in New York State.**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this GIS is to provide clarification to the local social services districts about the following:

- the circumstances under which a single, 18-21 year old SSI recipient having a federal SSI Living Arrangement Code of 'A' and a State Supplemental Code of 'A' (a so-called 'A/A') may participate in NYSNIP as a separate SNAP household if they are living in the household of their parent(s); and
- the circumstances under which an adult SSI recipient having a federal SSI Living Arrangement Code of 'A' and a State Supplemental Code of 'A' (a so-called 'A/A') may participate in NYSNIP as a separate SNAP household if they are living with an 18-21 year old child who is his/her offspring.

**Program Implications**

In order to participate in NYSNIP, a person must be a single, adult SSI recipient who the Social Security Administration has designated as having a federal SSI Living Arrangement Code of 'A' and a State Supplemental Code of 'A'.

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- 18-21 year olds who meet the eligibility criteria above are **not** prohibited from participating in NYSNIP **unless they reside in the same household as their parent(s) AND their parent(s) also are in receipt of SNAP benefits.**

In other words, an **18-21 year old single, SSI recipient** having a federal SSI Living Arrangement Code of 'A' and a State Supplemental Code of 'A' **can** participate in NYSNIP as a separate SNAP household, even if they live with their parent(s), as long as the parent(s) are not also in receipt of SNAP benefits. If both the parents **and** the 18-21 year old SSI recipient are either participating in SNAP or applying for SNAP, then they must have eligibility considered and must participate as a single, non-NYSNIP SNAP household.

- Likewise, a **parent in receipt of SSI** who lives with their child or children age 18-21 **can** participate in NYSNIP as a separate SNAP household as long as the 18-21 year old child is not applying for or in receipt of SNAP benefits. If both are participating in or applying for SNAP, then they may not be separate SNAP households. They must have eligibility assessed and must participate as a single non-NYSNIP SNAP household.