
Communiqué Attachment

Recently, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) provided its staff information associated with the changes to the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program, including the engagement of volunteers as of July 1, 2009. Information related to the DCF memorandum is provided below.

- The One-Stop Service Tracking (OSST) system will receive food stamp recipient cases via the OSST to Florida On-line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system if the food stamp recipient is coded as a “Work Registrant” or “Unemployment Compensation” on the AGPI screen.
- If the food stamp recipient is ages 16 through 39 and a case is built or reopened in the OSST system, the food stamp recipient will be mailed a letter about the volunteer program. This is based on limited funding.
- As of July 1, 2009, a food stamp recipient will not be “sanctioned” for not complying with program activities. If a volunteer is not attending his/her activity, turning in documentation to support participation or attending meetings, the individual’s food stamps will not be terminated by the DCF.
- If an individual was sanctioned prior to July 1, 2009 for non-compliance and the penalty period began impacting the individual’s food stamp receipt, the individual must serve out the penalty period. Once the penalty period has been served, the individual can reapply for food stamp benefits. The individual will not be required to report to the career center to comply to lift the sanction.
- If the individual is referred to the workforce program to “comply to lift the FSET program sanction”, the FSET program staff should not require the food stamp applicant to participate in activities prior to lifting the sanction. The following steps should be followed:
 1. Do not send the individual back to the DCF to relay a message about lifting the sanction.
 2. Review the case in the FLORIDA system.
 - a. If the penalty period has started or was applied to the food stamps, ensure the penalty period has been “served” or expired before lifting the sanction with “Complied” on the Alternative Plan screen in the One-Stop Service Tracking (OSST) system.
 - b. If the penalty period was not started or the sanction was not applied to the case, lift the FSET program sanction request with “Sanction not imposed” on the Alternative Plan screen in the One-Stop Service Tracking (OSST) system.