
THE SKILL MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE

Strengthening Knowledge in 15 Minutes

FS Program Unit

October 2008

The Farm Bill, At Last

The latest Farm Bill, reauthorizing the Food Stamp Program, became effective October 1, a mere 12 months behind schedule. Although it contains nothing earth-shaking, there are several changes you need to be aware of, along with some miscellaneous tag-alongs. Did you pay attention to the 10/08 changes? Take this month's Skill Challenge to find out.

SCORE

- _____ 1. Name three of the standards that change annually on October 1. 10 Points
- _____ 2. What methods does FNS allow for giving applicants a Notice of Missed Interview (NOMI)? 10 Points
- _____ 3. Are Prg 82 (TANF-UN) cases eligible for TBA when cash ends? 10 Points
- _____ 4. Three significant changes occurred in SRS requirements. Name two. 10 Points
- _____ 5. What happened to the cap on dependent care deductions? 10 Points
- _____ 6. Does paying for geothermal heat qualify a household for FUA? 10 Points
- _____ 7. What is the minimum FS allotment for 1- and 2-person benefit groups? 10 Points
- _____ 8. Where can you find information on handling returned mail? 10 Points
- _____ 9. How does FS treat the new child support pass-through for TANF? 10 Points
- _____ 10. In the single biggest change, FNS eliminated the Food Stamp Program. What replaced it? 10 Points
- _____ **TOTAL**

ANSWERS

1. Countable income limit, adjusted income limit, 165% FPL (for elderly & disabled filing separately), every utility standard, FS allotment, maximum shelter offset (used in the benefit calculation), standard deductions. **FS C & F**
2. Send the *Missed Appointment Post Card* (DHS 411) or the NOTM FSMA411. FNS has stated that a phone call to the applicant is not adequate. **FS B 8**
3. Yes. Ending a Prg 82 or SFPSS cash case now makes families eligible for TBA. FNS no longer excludes state-funded programs from this benefit. **FS F 9**
4. NED households are now those in which every adult is either elderly or disabled: we no longer have to consider the children. The 185% reporting requirement for NEDs is gone. Non-NED homeless and migrant farmworker households can now be put into SRS for a full 12 months (and will be required to complete the 852). **FS F 8**
5. It's gone. Federal legislation removed the \$175/\$200 cap on this deduction. Clients at the previous limit were notified of this change in September. Refer to SS-IM-08-029 (link). **FS F 19**
6. Yes. Geothermal and solar panels were added as eligible heat sources. **FS F 23**
7. The Farm Bill increased the minimum allotment from \$10 to \$14. It will increase annually beginning this year. **FS G 8**
8. It has been moved from FS H to a new worker guide that covers all self-sufficiency programs. See **MP-WG-20**.
9. The pass-through is counted as SUP on the FS case. **CCA B 13**
10. The FSP is gone, replaced by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This was done to eliminate the reference to "stamps" and to emphasize the purpose of the program. Oregon will be changing the name of the FSP to...something. Stay tuned.

SCORING

100-90	Wow. Impressive.
80-70	You're really paying attention.
Under 70	Can you make time to read the manual letter?
