

Payment Integrity Scorecard

Program or Activity

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Reporting Period

Q1 2024

FY 2023 Overpayment Amount (\$M)*

\$7,478

*Estimate based a sampling time frame starting 10/2021 and ending 9/2022



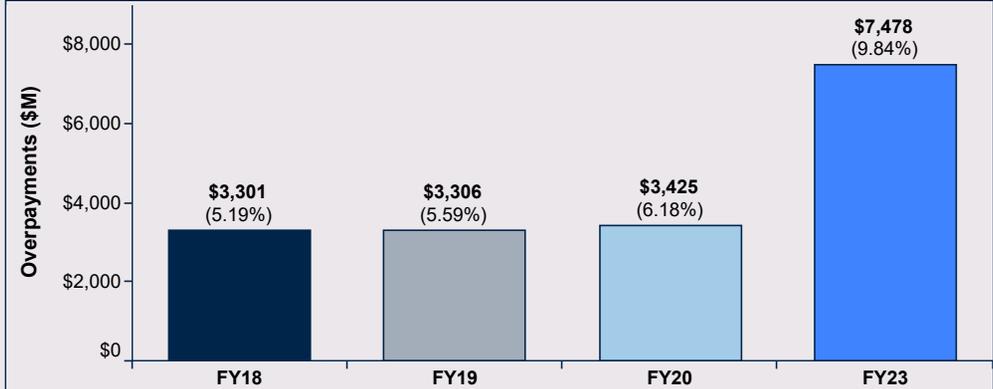
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Brief Program Description & summary of overpayment causes and barriers to prevention:

SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budgets. It is the largest domestic nutrition assistance program. SNAP is a Federal program administered by States (all 50 States, D.C., Guam, and the Virgin Islands). States are responsible for determining a SNAP applicant's eligibility and issuing benefits to eligible residents following Federal requirements. Within those requirements, State agencies have flexibility to tailor the program to meet the needs of their residents through various policy options, waivers, and demonstration projects. As a result, corrective actions to address payment errors must originate in and be tailored to each individual State agency's circumstances/particular root cause of error.

Historical Payment Rate and Amount (\$M) (Overpayment as Percentage of Total Outlays)



Discussion of Actions Taken in the Preceding Quarter and Actions Planned in the Following Quarter to Prevent Overpayments

- Began drafting updated guidance on strategies for improving payment accuracy. Plan to issue a tip sheet to SNAP State administering agencies that summarizes example strategies for improving payment accuracy. The tip sheet will provide information gathered directly from States during from a series of listening sessions focused on understanding their successes and challenges in issuing accurate benefits.
- Began work on a five-year contract to provide nationwide earnings verification services. This contract will provide State SNAP administering agencies with access to two commercial databases of employment and earnings records. States can use these services to verify earned income sources and amounts for SNAP households. Since income is a key factor in the SNAP benefit calculation, these efforts are expected to help improve payment accuracy.
- Continued developing the new National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) to prevent issuance of SNAP benefits to an individual by more than one State agency simultaneously (also known as interstate duplicate participation). FNS anticipates that the NAC system will go live this year.

Accomplishments in Reducing Overpayment

		Date
1	Completed a series of listening sessions to gather information directly from States on successes and challenges in issuing accurate benefits.	Aug-23
2	Began onboarding States to utilize the newly awarded contracts with Equifax and Experian to provide nationwide earning verification services, which are expected to help improve payment accuracy. In quarter 1, 8 States began using the contracts to conduct income data matches.	Dec-23
3	Developed a curriculum and training plan for a series of trainings to improve the quality and consistency of payment accuracy data collections. Trainings will occur in quarters 2-4.	Dec-23

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Goals towards Reducing Overpayments		Status	ECD	Recovery Method	Brief Description of Plans to Recover Overpayments	Brief Description of Actions Taken to Recover Overpayments
1	Improve how SNAP State administering agencies collect and utilize data on improper payments to appropriately target corrective action.	On-Track	Sep-25	1 Recovery Audit	States are required to submit a plan to FNS that describes their recovery audit functions, and quarterly reports on recipient claims recoveries. FNS provides oversight and technical assistance to ensure States establish and collect claims as required by law.	FNS doesn't perform recovery activities at the federal level. FNS does provide oversight/technical assistance to SAs regarding referral, management, and recovery of overpayments. States establish claims/maintain an accounting system for monitoring claims/ recoveries.
2	Provide more guidance to support State agencies in planning and implementing corrective actions to improve payment accuracy.	On-Track	Sep-25			

Amt(\$)	Root Cause of Overpayment	Root Cause Description	Mitigation Strategy	Brief Description of Mitigation Strategy and Anticipated Impact
\$7,478M	Overpayments outside the agency control that occurred because of a Failure to Access Data/Information Needed.	Improper payments are outside FNS control because SNAP benefits are processed/administered by States. States make decisions about how to administer SNAP amongst various policy options, waivers, and demonstration projects; directly determine eligibility; and provide benefits.	Training – teaching a particular skill or type of behavior; refreshing on the proper processing methods.	FNS trains State agencies and provides tools needed to conduct an individualized root cause analysis and develop targeted corrective action plans. This allows each State agency to assess root causes and target corrective actions appropriately.