Annual Report: High Performance Bonus for Administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

As Required By
H.B. 1, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015
(Article II, Health and Human Services Commission, Rider 21)

Health and Human Services Commission
October 2016
High Performance Bonus for Administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

High performance bonuses are annual incentive payments made to state agencies that meet performance standards established by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 (Article II, Health and Human Services Commission, Rider 21) directs the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to use a portion of bonus awards for the development and operation of a nutrition education and outreach program, or for activities that otherwise improve low-income consumers' access to basic nutrition and healthy foods. Rider 21 further requires HHSC to prepare a report each year of the biennium summarizing its progress in implementing the education and outreach program and related activities.

Improved Access to Basic Nutrition and Healthy Foods

For fiscal years 2014 and 2015, HHSC received approximately $6.1 million from the USDA FNS as a high-performance bonus payment for being among the states with the highest SNAP payment accuracy rates during federal fiscal year 2013.

In federal fiscal year 2015, HHSC used SNAP performance bonus dollars to provide bonuses to high-performing eligibility staff and to support the following nutrition related endeavors:

- Promote a nutrition education website through on-line advertising and social media. The HHSC nutrition education website includes information and tips on how to plan healthy meals, shop for healthy foods on a budget, and make time-saving healthy recipes. The website includes links to state and federal nutrition sites and resources for clients.

- Update the nutrition education website with English and Spanish videos that provide practical tips on healthy eating.

To date in fiscal year 2016, HHSC has received $2.8 million from FNS for most improved SNAP Quality Control (QC) case and procedural error rates (CAPER) during federal fiscal year 2014. In addition to the CAPER bonus payment award, USDA FNS notified HHSC in July 2015, it would receive a SNAP QC payment accuracy high-performance bonus payment in the amount of $6,496,710 for performance during federal fiscal year 2014. However, USDA FNS is delaying
issuance of the SNAP high-performance bonus funds pending a review of state quality control systems for all 53 state agencies.

USDA FNS is expected to complete all reviews no later than December 31, 2016, at which time it will release an updated quality control error rate for fiscal year 2014. HHSC does not anticipate receiving funding from the SNAP high-performance bonus for performance during federal fiscal year 2014 until early calendar year 2017.

HHSC used the $2.8 million CAPER bonus payment award to provide performance bonuses to high-performing eligibility staff in fiscal year 2016. Any additional funds received will be used to provide staff bonuses and nutrition education and outreach.