USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Park Office Center

3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: August 4, 2017

SUBJECT: 2014 Farm Bill:
Cooperation with Program Research and Evaluation

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
All Regions

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), Public Law 113-79, clarifies requirements for participation in evaluations and research in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on the implementation of this provision.

Section 4023 of the Farm Bill amends section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) to clarify that States, State agencies, local agencies, institutions, facilities such as data consortiums, and contractors participating in programs authorized under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, are required to cooperate with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials and contractors conducting evaluations and studies and submit information in the time and manner required.

Regional Offices are asked to share this guidance with the State agencies.

State agencies should direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office. Regional Offices with questions should contact Lizbeth Silbermann by email at Lizbeth.Silbermann@fns.usda.gov or by phone at (703) 305-2494.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey N. Cohen
Acting Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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