

If the approved Distance Learning activity is less than the required work program hours, the recipient must participate in another activity to meet the hours needed to fulfill his or her work program requirement.

As additional Distance Learning programs are approved, we will inform you of each specific program and site.

## **FYI**

### **Food Stamp Application Verifications Assistance**

AU Managers are reminded that food stamp regulations at 106 CMR 361.650 and 106 CMR 361.920 - 930 require AU Managers to assist food stamp applicants in obtaining the required verifications, when necessary. You must inform applicants of alternative forms of acceptable verifications and advise them to call you if they are having difficulty obtaining the required verifications.

Remember also that you must not deny applications for failure to provide verification when the outstanding verification is not mandatory, but would result in an increased benefit amount for example, verification of shelter, utility or child care expenses.

## **FYI**

### **Transportation Costs as an Allowable Food Stamp Medical Deduction**

Food stamp regulations at 106 CMR 364.400 allow elderly and/or disabled assistance unit members to deduct medical expenses in excess of \$35 per month. This includes *“the reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or services.”* If a recipient claims mileage for medical transportation to and from medical appointments, the federal mileage rate of 40.5 cents per mile must be used to calculate the transportation cost that will be allowed as a medical deduction.

“A Senegalese poet said ‘In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.’ We must learn about other cultures in order to understand, in order to love, and in order to preserve our common world heritage.”

Yo Yo Ma, White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy

## **FYI**

### **USDA Clarification Regarding the Validity of Faxed Signatures and Verification Proofs**

Original signatures or verification proofs are not required for Food Stamp purposes. Faxed documents and copies must be accepted unless questionable. If a signature or document looks like it has been altered or tampered with, the AU Manager may request the original document.

J

U

N

E

