



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

Daniel J. Curley
Commissioner
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

APR 4 2012

Dear Commissioner Curley:

This report is to provide you with the results of the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) Management Evaluation Review conducted from February 16 to February 17, 2012 at the Liberty Street Transitional Assistance Office. We would like to thank Phuoc Cao, Claudette Champagne, Melissa Pietraszkiewicz, John Shirley, Julie Noble, and the Assistant Directors, Supervisors, and Case Managers from the Springfield State Street and Liberty Street Offices who openly shared thoughtful counsel about the State agency's June 2011 disaster response.

The purpose of this review is to ensure the State is following FNS regulations under 7 CFR 280 and the FNS DSNAP Guidance. As well, the June DSNAP operation in Springfield was the first DSNAP operation ran by Department of Transitional Assistance. NERO sought to learn more about the State agency's experiences and lessons learned. The areas included in this assessment were DSNAP client case files, DTA's post disaster report, and interviews with management and case workers.

The enclosed report documents best practices and input from DTA. NERO also made several recommendations to improve disaster planning. Overall NERO was impressed with DTA's first DSNAP operation and feels the State agency expressed several valuable insights about the DSNAP. This report is designed to be shared with FNS policymakers and other States to communicate the disaster planning lessons concluded from this review.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Denise Daly at (617) 565-6404.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region

Enclosure

cc: Phuoc Cao, Director of SNAP Program
Claudette Champagne, DTA Director, Liberty Street Office
Melissa Pietraszkiewicz, DTA Director, State Street Office
John Shirley, DTA Central Office, Regional Director