

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

Legislative Authority

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (PL 111-80) provides FNS with \$10.576 million to test pilots that increase SNAP participation among non-SSI elderly. FNS will use this funding for pilot projects that target the Extra Help population and an evaluation to test the efficacy of the pilot projects at increasing SNAP participation.

Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011-2036; the Act) allows FNS to approve pilot projects that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of SNAP and improve the delivery of SNAP benefits to eligible households. This authority allows FNS to waive sections of the law and implementing regulations to conduct these projects. FNS requires that these projects be time-limited, cost neutral to the Federal government, and contain an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the pilot project. FNS measures cost neutrality in terms of benefit costs, not administrative costs. A project is cost neutral to the Federal government if it does not cost more to provide SNAP benefits to project households than it would to provide SNAP benefits to the same household in a non-pilot project area of the State. Checking for cost neutrality ensures that project households that would not otherwise be eligible for SNAP are detected and steps are taken to reduce or eliminate such households from the project.