## Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children qualify for free school meals or milk, you might also qualify for **SNAP** (formerly called Food Stamps). SNAP helps people buy food for themselves and their families. SNAP benefits are issued each month on plastic debit cards. You can use SNAP benefits to buy food at major supermarkets, neighborhood grocery stores, and some farmers' markets authorized to accept SNAP.

## **How to Qualify**

If and how much SNAP you qualify for depends on:

- your household's income;
- allowable deductions to your household's income (examples include monthly shelter expenses, medical bills, and court ordered child support);
- your household size; and
- at least 5 years U.S. residency for qualified non-citizens.

If you have access to the Internet, you can go online to see if you may be eligible for SNAP. Go to www.connect.ct.gov and click "Am I Eligible?" Owning your own home or owning a car will not prevent you from being eligible for SNAP.

| Effective October 1, 2020          |                            |                           |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Household size                     | Gross<br>monthly<br>income | Gross<br>annual<br>income |
| 1                                  | \$1,968                    | \$23,606                  |
| 2                                  | \$2,658                    | \$31,894                  |
| 3                                  | \$3,349                    | \$40,128                  |
| 4                                  | <b>\$4,</b> 040            | \$48,470                  |
| 5                                  | <b>\$4,73</b> 0            | \$56,758                  |
| 6                                  | \$5,421                    | \$65,046                  |
| 7                                  | \$6,112                    | \$73,334                  |
| 8                                  | \$6,802                    | \$81,622                  |
| For each additional member         | +691                       | +8,288                    |
| Larger households = higher incomes |                            |                           |

## To Apply or Get More Information

- To find your local Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) office, call **United Way's free referral number 2-1-1** (free call statewide).
- You can find a list of all Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) offices, or you can apply online at https://www.connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp (click "Apply for Benefits"). You can get the paper SNAP application in English at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DSS/Common-Applications/W-1E.pdf and in Spanish at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DSS/Common-Applications/W-1ES.pdf.
- The following two organizations conduct outreach for DSS and can assist with applying for SNAP benefits:
  - 1. **End Hunger CT!** provides a SNAP outreach call center (866-974-SNAP (7627)) to assist in applying for as well as maintaining eligibility for SNAP benefits. If you are eligible for SNAP, you will stretch your food dollars, support your school and community, and your kids get school meals at no cost. Many families are surprised they qualify it is quick, easy and confidential to check by calling one of our trained associates
  - 2. **The Connecticut Association for Community Action** (CAFCA) works with community action agencies that will help you enroll in SNAP (see table on page 2):

## **Addendum C: Information on SNAP**

| Agency  | Phone number | Areas served  |
|---|--------------|---|
| The Access Community Action Agency (Access)                         | 860-450-7400 | Windham and Tolland Counties                          |
| Alliance for Community Empowerment (Alliance)                       | 203-366-8241 | Greater Bridgeport Area and Upper Fairfield<br>County |
| Community Action Agency of New<br>Haven, Inc. (CAANH)               | 203-387-7700 | Greater New Haven Area                                |
| The Community Action Agency of<br>Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC) | 203-744-4700 | Northwestern CT and Lower Fairfield County            |
| Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)                                  | 860-560-5600 | Hartford and Middlesex County                         |
| Human Resources Agency of New<br>Britain, Inc. (HRA)                | 860-225-8601 | New Britain and Bristol Areas                         |
| New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)                                       | 203-575-9799 | Greater Waterbury, Meriden, and Torrington<br>Areas   |
| Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)            | 860-889-1365 | Southeastern CT- New London County                    |
| Training Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM)                        | 203-736-5420 | Naugatuck Valley                                      |

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State
Department of Education's nondiscrimination
policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie,
Equal Employment Opportunity
Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator
(ADA), Connecticut State Department of
Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505,
Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071,
levy.gillespie@ct.gov.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Forms/FreeRed/AddendumC.pdf.