

public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval.

**Marcia Bunger,**

*Administrator, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of reestablished matching program.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, USDA FNS is providing notice of a reestablished computer matching program between FNS and the State agencies that administer the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The matching program allows State agencies access to the Electronic Disqualified Recipient System (eDRS), a national database operated by FNS. The system maintains records of SNAP disqualifications imposed by State agencies on individuals who have been found to have committed an intentional program violation (IPV).

**DATES:** The deadline for comments on this notice is September 23, 2024.

The re-established matching program will become effective not sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice, provided no comments are received that warrant a change to this notice. The matching program will be conducted for an initial term of 18 months and may be renewed for up to one additional year if the parties make no change to the matching program and certify that the program has been conducted in compliance with the matching agreement.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

- *Preferred:* Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *By email:* FNS, SNAP, State Administration Branch (SAB) at [SM.FN.SNAPSAB@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FN.SNAPSAB@usda.gov).

- *By mail:* Maribelle Balbes, Branch Chief, SAB, SNAP, FNS, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.

- *Instructions:* All comment submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

- *Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general questions, please contact the above individual, Maribelle Balbes, Branch Chief, SAB, SNAP, FNS at [Maribelle.Balbes@usda.gov](mailto:Maribelle.Balbes@usda.gov) or 703–605–4272.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, provides certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving federal benefits. The law governs the use of computer matching by federal agencies when records in a system of records, which contains information about individuals that are retrieved by name or other personal identifier, are matched with records of other Federal, State, or local government records. The Privacy Act requires agencies involved in a matching program to:

- Obtain approval of a Computer Matching Agreement, prepared in accordance with the Privacy Act, by the Data Integrity Board of any Federal agency participating in a matching program.

- Enter into a written Computer Matching Agreement.
- Provide a report of the matching program to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and make it available to the public, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), (u)(3)(A), and (u)(4).

- Publish a notice of the matching program in the **Federal Register** as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12) after OMB and Congress complete their review of the report, as provided by OMB Circular A–108, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act.

- Notify the individuals whose information will be used in the matching program that the information they provide is subject to verification through matching, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(1)(D).

- Verify match findings before suspending, terminating, reducing, or making a final denial of an individual's benefits or payments or taking other

adverse action against the individual, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(p).

This matching program meets these requirements.

#### Participating Agencies

FNS and the State agencies that administer SNAP to include all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

#### Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act), as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2015(b), provides the legal authority for conducting the matching program. Section 6(b) of the Act prescribes mandatory periods of ineligibility for persons found to have committed an IPV such as fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of statute or regulation in connection with SNAP. Section 6(b)(4) prescribes regulations to ensure that appropriate State and Federal entities forward information concerning determinations arising out of such proscribed activity by a specific individual.

#### Purpose(s)

The eDRS matching program maintains program integrity and reduces payment errors by providing information to assist State agencies with establishing or verifying the eligibility of individuals for SNAP benefits and determining the appropriate disqualification period to be imposed for a new IPV as required in regulations at 7 CFR 273.16, Disqualification for intentional Program violation. Each State agency must submit information about individuals who have been disqualified from SNAP within their State to eDRS. As a participant in this matching program, each State agency has access to this national system to both submit the required information for their State and perform the required matches against information provided by all State agencies.

#### Categories of Individuals

SNAP applicants and new household members are matched against eDRS as part of the eligibility determination process to ensure the individual is not currently disqualified from receiving benefits due to an IPV. Individuals who are being disqualified by a State agency due to a new IPV finding are matched against eDRS to assist the State agency in determining the appropriate duration of the new disqualification

## Categories of Records

The data elements in eDRS provide information about individuals who have been disqualified, the disqualification details, and the agency that imposed the disqualification. State agencies submit this information about disqualifications imposed in their State and this information is then available to all participating State agencies with access to eDRS. State agencies use personally identifying information to search eDRS for the individual being matched.

- Information about the disqualified individual:
- Name
- Social security number or alternative ID
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Alias
- Disqualification number
- Disqualification decision date
- Disqualification start date
- Duration of disqualification period
- Offense code
- Agency information:
- Locality code
- Locality contact name, title, location, and phone number

## System(s) of Records

The system of records for this data exchange comprising eDRS is USDA/ FNS-5, Information on Persons Disqualified from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 75 FR 81205 (Dec. 27, 2010). This data exchange is authorized under routine uses.

**Tameka Owens,**

*Acting Administrator and Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Mobile Payment Pilots (MPPs)

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on the proposed information collection. This is a revision of an existing information collection to conduct demonstration pilot projects to test the redemption of

SNAP benefits through mobile payment technologies.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before October 22, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent via the following methods:

- *Preferred Method:* Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

- *Email:* Send comments to [RPMDHQ-WEB@USDA.GOV](mailto:RPMDHQ-WEB@USDA.GOV).

- *Mail:* Send comments to Shelly Pierce, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Eden Temple, at (703) 457-7734 or via email to [RPMDHQ-WEB@USDA.GOV](mailto:RPMDHQ-WEB@USDA.GOV).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* SNAP Mobile Payment Pilots (MPPs)

*Form Number:* None.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0672.

*Expiration Date:* 6/30/2025.

*Type of Request:* Revision to existing collection.

*Abstract:* Section 4006(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) authorizes the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to allow up to five Mobile Payment Pilots (MPPs) to allow the use of personal mobile devices, such as cellular phones, tablets and smart watches in place of SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to conduct SNAP transactions. Respondents (SNAP State agencies (State agencies) and their

SNAP business partners) will conduct pilots to test the use of mobile payment technologies for the redemption of SNAP benefits by SNAP households at participating retailers, to determine their feasibility and implications for program integrity. FNS will conduct these projects to evaluate whether allowing mobile payments is in the best interest of the Program, and to therefore, recommend allowing their use to the Secretary.

The information collected in the pilot evaluation (to be submitted for OMB approval under a separate information collection request) will help FNS determine the success of and best practices for the use of mobile payment technologies to redeem SNAP benefits. This information will inform Program design, standards, rulemaking, and guidance for approval of SNAP mobile payment technologies as well as Departmental decisions and recommendations to Congress with respect to requiring all State EBT systems to accept mobile payment technologies in the future.

To achieve these objectives, FNS seeks OMB approval only for implementation of MPP by State agencies. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, FNS will seek a separate OMB approval to evaluate the results of completed MPPs under a separate 60-day **Federal Register** Notice and information collection request.

#### 1. Assumptions

In 2022, FNS issued a request for volunteers for participate in the MPP. FNS received 12 proposals and selected 5 States to participate. Because the request for volunteers (RFV) process has already occurred and its burden was covered in the initial 2022 information collection request, FNS is removing the hours associated with the RFV process from this renewal. Because pilot projects are still being designed, it is impossible for FNS to know in advance the design and structure of pilots that may be proposed or the specific activities each State and associated partners will undertake while conducting a MPP. Therefore, we have provided general estimates based on an assumed pilot model. Actual pilots may vary widely from this model and include a variety of potential stakeholders; this information collection does not intend to establish a standard model; this model will be used throughout this notice simply for ease of estimation.

If there are substantive changes to this data collection request, the agency will seek OMB approval to revise this information collection request following