

# STREAMLINE SNAP ELIGIBILITY

## CHECKS AT 6 MONTHS

### BACKGROUND

Texas HHSC has a significant backlog of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications, with **over 222,000 applications waiting to be processed as of September 2024**. The USDA has placed HHSC under a Corrective Action Plan, but the agency has struggled for years to meet federal timeliness standards. As a result, thousands of Texans eligible for SNAP are going months without critical food assistance, which places undue strain on Texas food banks.

### SOLUTION

HHSC requires most SNAP recipients to provide updated information about their household circumstances every 6 months to ensure that they are still eligible, and HHSC staff must manually review, verify, and process each submission. Streamlining this 6-month eligibility check using technology and verified data sources offers a systemic solution to reduce workload and improve timeliness. Known as “periodic reporting,” this process will:

#### 1. REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN & COST SAVINGS

A periodic reporting system simplifies and streamlines the 6-month eligibility check. Clients provide updates through concise reports that are then checked automatically against verified data sources. This reduces the time needed to process each report. Georgia recently implemented periodic reporting and saw a **25% reduction in workload** for their eligibility staff. Applied to Texas’s eligibility workforce, this change would **save over \$33 Million in state funds per year**.

#### 2. DECREASE ERROR RATES

Periodic reporting will minimize the risk of human error in data handling and eligibility determination. Fewer errors result in fewer costly corrections and adjustments.

### CONCLUSION

Adopting streamlined 6-month periodic reporting offers multiple benefits to HHSC and SNAP participants, including cost savings to the state, workload reduction for state employees, and effective program management. **Texas is behind the curve; we are one of only 5 states to not adopt this streamlined process.** A more efficient process will help eliminate the backlog in application processing, bring HHSC into compliance with federal timeliness requirements, and ensure timely food assistance to vulnerable Texans.

SAVES

**\$33 MILLION**

**PER YEAR**