

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2024

Contact: Jessica Garon
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APHSA Recognizes the New Jersey Division of Family Development with the AASD Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services Awards

PORTLAND, OR: The New Jersey Division of Family Development (DFD) has been honored with the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD) Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services. The award was presented at the Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference (EMWB) 2024 in Portland, OR, which was produced by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for AASD, the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA).

Larry Braasch, Deputy Division Director of the New Jersey DFD, stated, “The NJ Division of Family Development has completed several initiatives in recent years that have had a substantial impact on access to food assistance programs.” Braasch highlighted several key initiatives, including the Summer EBT program where DFD partnered with the Department of Agriculture to serve 550,000 children. DFD also dedicated staffing to expand outreach partners from two to nine, with twelve more scheduled to begin work in the upcoming federal fiscal year, bringing the total number of vendors to 21.

Additionally, a partnership with the state’s Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) agency facilitated a data sharing/matching process that, according to Mr. Braasch, “resulted in nearly 70,000 children becoming dually enrolled in SNAP and WIC.” In reaching this goal, DFD built a web service connection with WIC to automate adjunctive eligibility for roughly 9,000 WIC applicants.

The AASD Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services is sponsored by the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), an affinity group of APHSA. AASD was formed to strengthen the administration and management of SNAP and contribute to the professional development of its members.

This award is evidence that the New Jersey Division of Family Development is a shining example of what it means to work to promote impactful exchange of experience and knowledge among agencies administering SNAP to better support communities across the nation

The [EMWB Conference](#) brings together three APHSA affinity groups including the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA). This year’s event is being held August 25-28 in Portland, OR.

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Moira Johnston Honored with APHSA's Lifetime Achievement Award

APHSA Recognized the Decades Long Career of Moira Johnston at the Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference 2024

PORTLAND, OR: Moira Johnston has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference (EMWB) in Portland, OR, which was produced by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA). This award was created to spotlight dedicated human services professionals whose careers have moved the needle forward for the people they serve.

Johnston has had a distinguished career in public service. She was recently named the Acting Director of the Program Development Division, though she has worked years prior as the Director of the Office of Employment and Training within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). While there, she played a pivotal role in enhancing the employment prospects of SNAP recipients.

Johnston's leadership has been marked by a commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement. She's been recognized for her ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and drive positive change. Her work has not only improved the efficiency and effectiveness of SNAP employment and training programs but has also contributed to the broader goal of economic mobility and well-being for historically underserved populations.

As stated by Linda Schroder, Benefits Support Team Administrator for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Chair of AASD, "With more than 30 years at FNS, Moira's service and commitment to SNAP is undeniable!"

APHSA is honored to recognize Moira Johnston's outstanding contributions to the human services sector, particularly in employment and training programs

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North Dakota HHS Honored by APHSA with NAPIPM Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services
Honoring Exceptional Work in Human Services at the 2024 Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference

PORTLAND, OR: The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded the prestigious National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM) Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services. The award was presented at the annual Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference (EMWB) in Portland, OR which was produced by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for NAPIPM, the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA).

Rebecca Askins, Director of Quality Control for North Dakota Health and Human Services, stated, “The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services has seen significant improvements in its operations and service delivery since April 2022. Key initiatives include the revamping of the quality control findings process and the refinement of the administrative procedures manual for local agencies. These changes have provided clearer guidelines and enhanced the overall efficiency of the department.”

One example of increased efficiency can be found within the agency’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) quality control (QC) team. They have maintained a QC completion rate of 96.54 percent in FY22 and 94.25 percent in FY23, with the current FY24 completion rate at 95.61 percent as of March.

NAPIPM, an affinity group of APHSA, is the only national membership organization dedicated to assisting professional public human services agency staff and other stakeholders who are engaged in assessing and improving program information, performance, and outcomes for human services programs. The NAPIPM Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services spotlights the dedicated work of the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and their continuous efforts to achieve better outcomes for all those they serve

*The **EMWB Conference** brings together three APHSA affinity groups including the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA). This year’s event is being held August 25-28 in Portland, OR.*

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The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Recognized with the NASTA Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services

Kentucky Awarded for their Exceptional Work in Human Services at the 2024 Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference

PORTLAND, OR: The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services has been awarded the prestigious National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA) Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services. The award was presented at the Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference (EMWB) 2024 in Portland, OR, which was produced by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for NASTA, the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), and the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAIPM).

Rebekah Sides, Policy Associate for Social and Economic Mobility at APHSA, stated, "Kentucky has been working hard to systematically reassess and revise their state TANF regulations, add employment incentives to their work program, eliminate redundant forms to reduce the administrative burden for applicants, extend their income exclusion from two to six months, and double their benefit amounts."

The impact of these changes has been substantial. In March 2023, Kentucky managed 9,822 cases, a number that has since grown to 14,128 in their most recent report. Similarly, the number of individuals served increased from 19,548 in March 2023 to over 32,000, marking a remarkable 60 percent increase in the program's reach across the state.

NASTA, an affinity group of APHSA, provides national leadership for the development of sound policy, successful and innovative practices, and critical capacity building to improve agency performance and consumer outcomes. The NASTA Impact Award for Excellence in Human Services underscores the dedication and innovative efforts of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services in enhancing the well-being and economic mobility of its residents as well as their commitment to continuing to provide essential support and services to families across Kentucky

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Jerquitta Hicks-Smallwood is Recognized with the Newcomer Award at Annual EMWB Conference
Deputy Director of the North Carolina FNS program was Honored for Exceptional Work in Human Services at the 2024 Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference

PORTLAND, OR: Jerquitta Hicks-Smallwood was awarded the Newcomer Award at the annual Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference (EMWB) in Portland, OR, which was produced by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA). This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions and dedication to the North Carolina Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program.

Since taking on her new role as Deputy Director, Jerquitta has achieved several accomplishments while continuing to support the FNS team in all its endeavors. According to Pat Moore, Administrator for the FNS Quality Control Program, “Jerquitta successfully managed the PHE waiver process during COVID and beyond. She manages Policy and Program Integrity Policy consultants to ensure accuracy, and serves as the lead for USDA Management Evaluations, Corrective Action Plans, and State Audits.”

Additionally, Jerquitta has supported the expansion of NC’s Employment and Training program to 29 counties while also managing the NC FNS Section Help desk to ensure accurate and timely responses to legislative requests, governor office requests, and requests for information and issues of concerns from citizens.

Ms. Moore also says that “Jerquitta always has a willing spirit to do whatever is needed to support positive service to North Carolina’s citizens. Her dedication and hard work have been instrumental in North Carolina’s successes.”

The Newcomer Award is sponsored by the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), an affinity group of APHSA. The award recognizes and celebrates individuals new to the human services sector and already making changes that will strengthen the administration and management of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program and contribute to thriving communities across the nation

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