

BEST PRACTICES:

What other states/local areas are doing to address hunger among older people

Food Stamp Program

- Over the last decade, 19 states have chosen to conduct demonstrations to make it easier for elderly and disabled SSI recipients to receive Food Stamp benefits by:
 - Reengineering the application process &
 - Eliminating the need to go to the local food stamp office

Food Stamp Demonstration CAP Projects:

- The combination of :
- standardized benefits,
- minimal need for independent verification,
- & the reduced need to go to the local food stamp office... have produced significant increases in participation
- www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/Support/State_Options/8-State_Options.pdf

Florida's SUNCAP Program

- *What is the SUNCAP Food Stamp Program?*
- The SUNCAP program is a special food stamp program for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Eligible people can get food stamp benefits without any additional application, paperwork or interviews

Florida's SUNCAP Program

- **BENEFITS:**

- The interview for SSI benefits at SSA is your interview for food stamps
- No separate forms have to be completed
- No need to provide additional copies of personal information/verification
- Only required to report changes that are required by SSA
- Certified for 3 YEARS!

Florida's SUNCAP Program

- People who:
 - Have high medical expenses OR
 - Pay more than \$700 per month for rent, mortgage or property taxes...
 - CAN OPT OUT of SUNCAP, and apply for food stamps directly.
 - Why? Because they are likely to receive greater monthly benefits.

For more information:

- www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/suncap/english.pdf
- www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR9-1/ccr9-1fm.pdf

Michigan's MiCafe Program

- Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly= CAFÉ
- Sites located at senior centers, community centers, churches, senior apartment complexes.
- Trained volunteer helps with completion of the application. Usually, only one meeting needed.

Michigan's MiCAFE Program

- One meeting covers: food stamps, Medicare Savings Program; utility assistance; Medicaid
- Information is available both on their website, as well as through a toll free phone number:
- www.micafeonline.org
- 877-664-2233

Michigan's MiCAFE Program

* “Do you know someone who is ...age 60 or older? Lives on a fixed income? Could use extra \$\$?”

*“MiCAFE helps people 60 and older get money to buy what they need every month.

*With MiCAFE, many people get \$60 each month on their BRIDGE card...that can be used to pay for food at the grocery store.”
Standardized benefit.

Michigan's MiCAFE Program

- The words “food stamps” are never used in their materials.
- Website offers a video instructing people on how to use the BRIDGE card to purchase food. “Find your bridge to food.”
- Special enrollment events

Alabama's Senior Farmers Market Program

- Began in 2001.
- Is administered through the Alabama Farmers Market Authority
- Nationally recognized; ranks 4th in the nation
- Vouchers/coupons issued on a first-come; first served basis to eligible seniors by agreement with AAA's

Alabama's Senior Farmers Market Program

- Vouchers/Coupons can be used anytime between April 15th and November 15th
- Can be used at any certified farmers market site in the state
- Coupon book: 5 coupons worth \$6 each. No change is given.
- Must be **LOCALLY GROWN** produce.
www.buylocalalabama.com

Alabama's Senior Farmers Market Program

- Their name: Alabama Senior Farmers Market *Nutrition* Program
- Economic Development approach emphasized.
- Extension Service actively worked to help farmers sign up. # of farmers participating in 2001 – 357. Within 3 years, # of farmers increased to 1,230!

Alabama's Senior Farmers Market Program

- Don Wambles, Director, Alabama Farmers Market Authority 334-242-2618 don.wambles@fma.alabama.gov
- www.fma.alabama.gov/
- Developed web based training for farmer certification