

Food Assistance Program Grant (Food Stamps)

Purpose of Funds: These funds must be spent at the local level in a way that addresses the timely processing of all new and re-applications from food assistance benefits. Food assistance regulations require that 95% of cases be processed timely.

Receiving Department: Department of Human Services

Amount: \$273,633

Type of Grant: Formula

Estimated Jobs Created/Retained: Because of the immediate need for action, the Department does not have time to post jobs, interview, hire, and train new workers. Instead, existing workers will work longer hours and be paid overtime in order to address the new applications. Therefore, no new jobs are directly created.

Number of People Served: The Food Assistance Program experienced a 31 percent increase in food stamp applications between January and May of 2009. The money provided in this grant has and will continue to pay staff overtime wages in order to process these extra applications in a timely manner.

Public Process:

Due to the nature of this grant an expedited response was required at the State level. Denver Human Services prepared a plan and submitted it to the State. City Council also received a memo on May 29, 2009.

Proposed Spending:

Grant funding from the State Department of Human Services will help pay overtime wages necessary to continue regular processing of food stamps applications. From January through May of 2009 there has been an increase of more than 675 applications. Therefore, with the additional demand, the grant will allow for the Denver Department of Human Services to process these extra applications without delay.

For more information, please see the oversight committee docs at
<http://www.denvergov.org/stimulus>