

# Economic Services Division (ESD) Department for Children and Families Agency of Human Services



**3SquaresVT Update**  
**January 28, 2016**

Sean Brown  
Deputy Commissioner  
Economic Services Division



# 3SquaresVT – (SNAP)

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs

- 3SquaresVT is a federal USDA program that helps eligible Vermonters to stretch their food budgets and put three healthy meals on their tables every day
- At the national level, the program is called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP
- SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net
- ESD works with community partners such as Community Action Agencies, Area Agencies on Aging, the Vermont Food Bank, Hunger Free Vermont, and others to reach out to Vermonters who are eligible for 3SquaresVT and ensure they can access benefits



# Participant Data: SFY 2015

3SquaresVT and Cash-Out Participation and Issuance

Month Prepared: January, 2016

SFY 2015	Households			Recipients			\$ Issued		
	EBT	CO	TOTAL	EBT	CO	TOTAL	EBT	CO	TOTAL
Month	EBT	CO	TOTAL	EBT	CO	TOTAL	EBT	CO	TOTAL
JUL	29,463	14,510	43,973	66,469	15,845	82,314	\$7,753,926	\$2,226,027	\$9,979,953
AUG	29,439	14,529	43,968	66,488	15,852	82,340	\$7,730,446	\$2,390,802	\$10,121,248
SEP	29,323	14,546	43,869	66,314	15,870	82,184	\$7,666,603	\$2,354,540	\$10,021,143
OCT	29,369	14,619	43,988	66,425	15,939	82,364	\$7,644,358	\$2,351,753	\$9,996,111
NOV	29,293	14,611	43,904	66,215	15,918	82,133	\$7,538,892	\$2,359,880	\$9,898,772
DEC	29,156	14,590	43,746	65,966	15,875	81,841	\$7,547,046	\$2,371,364	\$9,918,410
JAN			-			-			\$0
FEB			-			-			\$0
MAR			-			-			\$0
APR			-			-			\$0
MAY			-			-			\$0
JUN			-			-			\$0
YTD AVG.	29,341	14,568	43,908	66,313	15,883	82,196	\$7,646,879	\$2,342,394	9,989,273
YTD Total							\$45,881,271	\$14,054,366	\$59,935,637

Prepared by Karolyn White, Economic Services Division, Process and Performance Unit

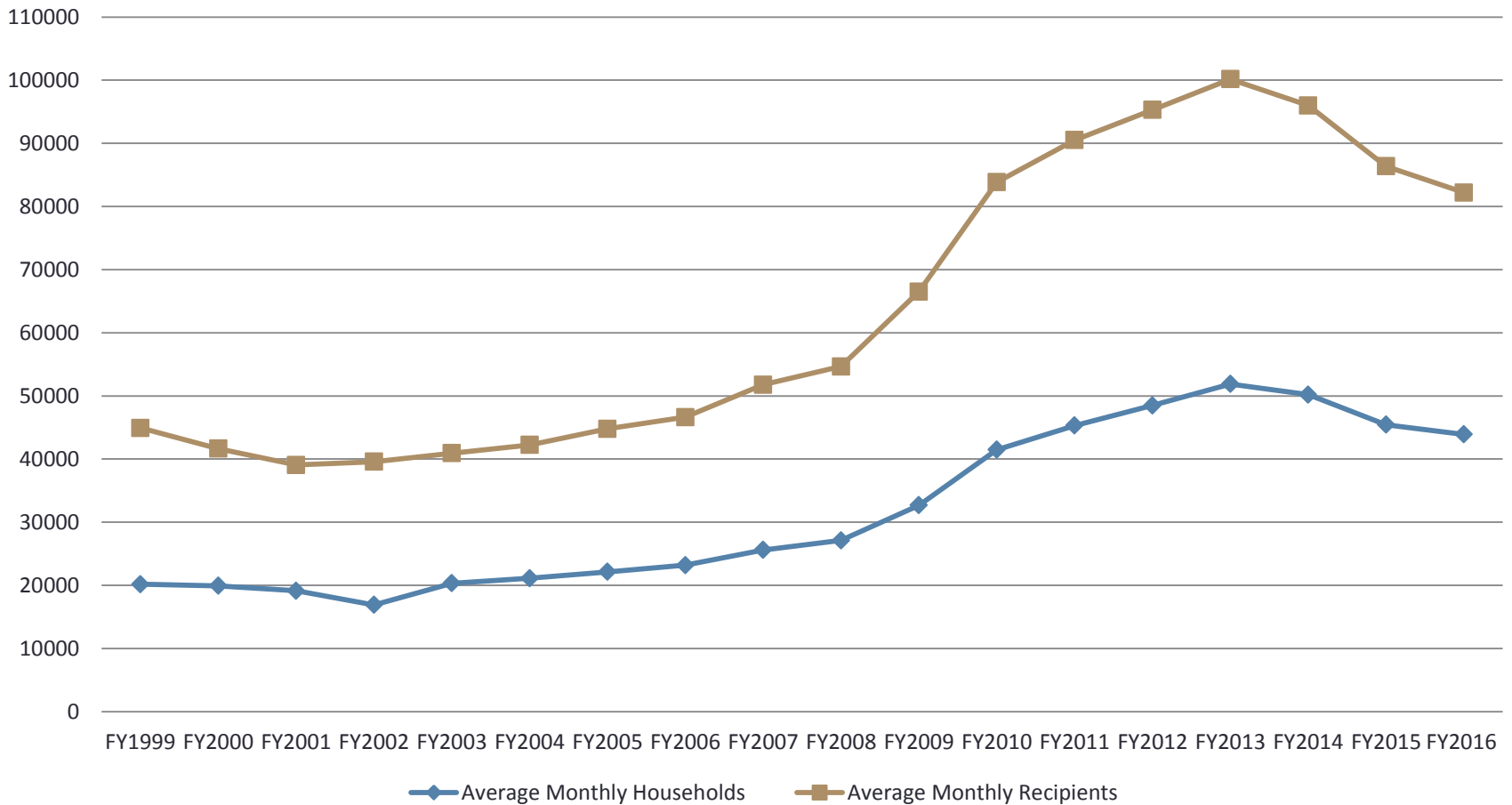
Source: Household and Recipient figures are from PPR extracts of ACCESS data. Dollars Issued figures are from the FNS 388 report prepared by the business office.

EBT - Electronic Benefits Transfer

CO - Cash-Out

# Participant Data (con't)

## 3SquaresVT Yearly Participation



# Program Income Standards

Maximum Monthly Income and Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) (P-2590 C)					
	Expanded gross monthly income	Maximum gross monthly income	Maximum gross monthly income to enable elderly and disabled member to be a separate household	Maximum net monthly income	Maximum allotment levels
Household Size	185% of the FPL	130% of the FPL	165% of the FPL	100% of the FPL	Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)
1	\$1,815	\$1,276	\$1,619	\$981	\$194
2	2,457	1,726	2,191	1,328	357
3	3,099	2,177	2,763	1,675	511
4	3,739	2,628	3,335	2,021	649
5	4,381	3,078	3,907	2,368	771
6	5,023	3,529	4,479	2,715	925
7	5,663	3,980	5,051	3,061	1,022
8	6,305	4,430	5,623	3,408	1,169
9	6,947	4,881	6,195	3,755	1,315
10	7,589	5,332	6,767	4,102	1,461
Each Add'l Member	+\$642	+ \$451	+ \$572	+ \$347	+ \$146

# One-Month Snapshot of 3SquaresVT Participants

One-Month Snapshot of 3SquaresVT Participants	
Data for the Month of December, 2015	
Total Recipients	81,814
Recipients aged 0-17	28,341 (35%)
Recipients with a disability	20,703 (25%)
Recipients aged 60 or older	13,706 (17%)
Total Participating Households	43,756
Average monthly benefit per household	\$232
Average monthly benefit per working household	\$267
Average monthly benefit per disability household	\$201
Average monthly benefit per elderly household	\$157
Average Monthly Benefit for Family with Children	\$370

# Bonus Awards FFY 2014

## **Best Program Access Index - \$252,344.00**

- The Best Program Access Index is the percentage of people below 125% of FPL in Vermont who are accessing SNAP benefits. Vermont's Program Access Index is 92.99%. Vermont ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the country.

## **Most Improved Payment Accuracy Rate - \$293,274.00**

- Vermont's payment accuracy rate was 9.66% in FFY 2013 and improved to 2.76%, the most improved in the country.

Please Note: In compliance with federal regulations, these monies will be spent on technology developments associated with AHS's Integrated Eligibility project.

# Payment Error Rate (PER)

## FFY 2013 Error Rate

- Received a penalty that was approximately \$575,000 for an error rate of 9.66%. Vermont appealed the penalty and reached a settlement for \$202,593.92.

## FFY 2012 Error Rate

- Received a penalty that was \$135,606.00 for an error rate of 6.96%.

## FFY 2011 Error Rate

- Received a penalty that was \$341,187.00 for an error rate of 8.53%.



# Payment Error Rate Improvement Activities

- Added eligibility staff: 12 BPS in Fall of 2013
- Re-established training unit: 1 manager, 2 trainers for 3SquaresVT in Fall of 2013
- Returned to a Geographic Case Load in 2014
- Instituted Supervisory Case Reviews in 2013
- Quality Assurance Case Reviews beginning in August 2013 and expanded in November of 2014
- IT changes to ACCESS
- Hired outside consultant for policy/process improvements and trainings for QC and eligibility staff
- Intensive Training for eligibility staff in 2013
- New Worker Trainings which are ongoing
- Interviewing Excellence Training in 2014
- Refresher Training which are ongoing
- Targeted Trainings-topic specific (child care deductions, medical deductions, etc.) which are ongoing
- Managing Performance Training for Managers and Supervisors in 2014

# Payment Error Rate FFY 15

While we are still finalizing the review of cases we anticipate the PER for FFY 15 to be approximately 1.25%.