PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY REQUEST FOR INFORMAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON THE DRAFT RULES 6 A.A.C.14 - NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Department of Economic Security (Department) received Governor's Office approval to make revisions to <u>6 A.A.C.14</u> - <u>Nutrition Assistance Program</u> on March 4, 2024, and is currently in the rulemaking process. These rules govern the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program) and is Arizona's program for the Food and Nutrition Service Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides eligible households with monthly benefits they can use to purchase nutritious food. During this rulemaking process, we welcome input from the public. To that end, we are requesting written comments on the current draft of these rules.

Our primary goal in revising these rules is to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the rules and promote client outcomes. The revisions will update language, align current practices, and comply with existing statutory and federal requirements.

The Department is seeking informal stakeholder input as we draft these rules to ensure that we adequately consider stakeholders' comments and concerns early in the rulewriting process. Although there will be an opportunity for formal public comment after the rules are published in the Arizona Administrative Register under <u>A.R.S. § 41-1023</u>, the Department will not be able to make any substantial changes to the draft rules at that time without additional steps and requirements to the rulemaking process.

Draft Rules - 6 A.A.C. 14 Nutrition Assistance Program

The Department will accept written comments on the draft rules until February 17, 2025. Comments may be submitted by filling out the <u>Comment Form</u> on the DES Website, or written comments may be submitted via mail or email at:

Arizona Department of Economic Security ATTN: Rules Unit P.O. Box 6123, Mail Drop 111G Phoenix, AZ 85007 E-mail: rules@azdes.gov Written comments are due by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on February 17, 2025. Written comments sent via the United States Postal Service must be postmarked by February 17, 2025, to ensure consideration. Please include the name and email address of the person providing comments as well as the name of any organization that person represents with the submission. If you are interested in meeting with DES to discuss these draft rules, please contact the Rules Unit via one of the contact methods listed above.

Comments will be addressed through the revision of the draft rules and not as individual responses to each comment. Thank you for your participation in the rulemaking process.

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT BY CONTACTING THE RULES UNIT AT THE EMAIL OR ADDRESS SPECIFIED ABOVE.