



HRA Facts on the Food Stamp Program

Participation (as of October 2011):

- A total of 1,832,667 New Yorkers receive Food Stamps.
- The vast majority (1,432,789) do not receive Cash Assistance.
- Participation in the Food Stamp program has increased by 124 percent since Mayor Bloomberg took office, while Cash Assistance has shrunk to its lowest levels since the 1960s.
- Despite the rapid growth, HRA has maintained a high rate of accuracy without substantially adding staff.
- The Food Stamp Program's payment error rate was only 4.32 percent for the first half of 2011.

Awards:

- 2009: Nine HRA Job and Food Stamp centers were honored by the U.S.D.A. as well as the City and State for excellent accuracy ratings.
- 2010: HRA received the 'Nor'easter' award for outstanding efforts to increase participation in the Food Stamp program.
- 2011: HRA won a "Silver Plate" U.S.D.A. Hunger Champions Award for efforts to improve service by increasing communications between Food Stamp Centers and non-profit and community groups.

Finger Imaging:

- Finger imaging saved approximately \$5.3 million in 2010.
- Implementation cost: \$183,000.
- Over 1,900 duplicate cases were detected and eliminated thanks to finger imaging.