



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Office of the Secretary**

One Davis Square, Suite 100, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301  
Telephone: (304) 558-0684 Fax: (304) 558-1130

**Earl Ray Tomblin**  
Governor

**Karen L. Bowling**  
Cabinet Secretary

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Jill Upson  
West Virginia House of Delegates  
Building 1, Room 219-E  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305

**RE: SNAP/TANF EBT Transaction Data**

Dear Delegate Upson:

This correspondence is in response to your request for out-of-state EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) transactions for both SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). The information that is being provided reflects the number of transactions and dollar amounts for each program in addition to program guidelines and data explanation for a more thorough analysis.

The attached two charts include an overall summary of completed SNAP and TANF transactions conducted outside the borders of WV using WV-issued EBT cards in each state during the period of November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015. The charts reflect all completed transactions, including transactions made using EBT cards as well as manually completed transactions. Completed EBT transactions are debits to the cardholder accounts, so the total expenditures of benefit dollars are reported as negative numbers on the attached charts.

The total amount of SNAP benefits for the designated timeframe was \$457,212,035 of which \$52,512,093 or 11.49% were attributed as out of state transactions of 1,250,891. The total amount of TANF benefits for the designated 12 month period was \$29,450,693 of which \$2,158,630 or 26,749 transactions (ie:7.33%) were out of state. The five states bordering WV (MD, KY, OH, PA, VA), accounted for 89.91% of the total dollar amount of out of state SNAP transactions. The fact that 30 of WV's 55 counties adjoin bordering state coupled with the essentially rural nature of most of WV's counties, may be a driving factor in the volume of transactions conducted in neighboring states.

In considering this data, it is important to note that the USDA Food and Nutrition Service mandated via its 2003 rule on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems Interoperability and Portability that each State agency implement the functionality for nationwide interoperability of their EBT systems and portability of electronically-issued food stamp benefits. Furthermore, this rule also requires that retailers must participate in neighboring states' EBT systems via a manual voucher process when the system is down or if the retailer is not equipped with a Point of Sale device.

Please review the information that has been provided and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Karen L. Bowling  
Cabinet Secretary

12 Month Out of State Transaction Summary ::

SNAP			
State/Territory	Abbreviation	# of Transactions	Total Dollar Amount
Alabama	AL	2,657	-\$84,368.36
Alaska	AK	158	-\$5,448.62
Arizona	AZ	1,899	-\$49,153.24
Arkansas	AR	933	-\$25,227.89
California	CA	2,803	-\$85,612.44
Colorado	CO	2,120	-\$57,151.21
Connecticut	CT	545	-\$15,873.79
Delaware	DE	2,085	-\$60,775.90
Florida	FL	27,347	-\$1,003,568.04
Georgia	GA	8,339	-\$241,342.89
Hawaii	HI	146	-\$3,410.05
Idaho	ID	282	-\$8,458.60
Illinois	IL	3,372	-\$107,741.71
Indiana	IN	5,032	-\$135,766.90
Iowa	IA	764	-\$19,222.12
Kansas	KS	633	-\$17,262.80
Kentucky	KY	261,765	-\$12,064,717.19
Louisiana	LA	1,922	-\$60,932.24
Maine	ME	393	-\$12,095.67
Maryland	MD	142,568	-\$6,056,228.76
Massachusetts	MA	904	-\$27,042.29
Michigan	MI	5,933	-\$171,673.62
Minnesota	MN	6,711	-\$343,243.44
Mississippi	MS	1,524	-\$90,803.08
Missouri	MO	1,529	-\$46,032.26
Montana	MT	315	-\$14,578.77
Nebraska	NE	273	-\$9,669.55
Nevada	NV	968	-\$24,193.34
New Hampshire	NH	1,309	-\$17,171.95
New Jersey	NJ	3,586	-\$110,801.83
New Mexico	NM	405	-\$12,357.87
New York	NY	5,177	-\$142,360.41
North Carolina	NC	32,870	-\$1,008,137.09
North Dakota	ND	183	-\$5,767.83
Ohio	OH	316,793	-\$14,057,076.62
Oklahoma	OK	1,443	-\$42,637.79
Oregon	OR	667	-\$14,949.51
Pennsylvania	PA	44,468	-\$1,444,159.51
Rhode Island	RI	122	-\$3,660.40
South Carolina	SC	17,250	-\$580,654.09
South Dakota	SD	180	-\$6,874.04
Tennessee	TN	11,548	-\$336,102.39
Texas	TX	5,268	-\$183,285.76

Utah	UT	842	-\$21,131.09
Vermont	VT	221	-\$7,215.72
Virginia	VA	321,514	-\$13,598,775.24
Washington	WA	779	-\$26,611.54
Wisconsin	WI	713	-\$20,129.01
Wyoming	WY	184	-\$7,790.54
Virgin Islands	VI	33	-\$1,695.25
Washington D.C.	DC	1,416	-\$30,153.14
<b>Annual Totals:</b>		<b>1,250,891</b>	<b>-\$52,521,093.39</b>

November 2014 - October 2015

TANF			
State/Territory	Abbreviation	# of Transactions	Total Dollar Amount
Alabama	AL	56	-\$3,096.07
Alaska	AK	0	\$0.00
Arizona	AZ	12	-\$577.39
Arkansas	AR	7	-\$672.99
California	CA	12	-\$1,049.32
Colorado	CO	10	-\$226.46
Connecticut	CT	17	-\$891.85
Delaware	DE	23	-\$1,586.79
Florida	FL	288	-\$23,841.42
Georgia	GA	127	-\$10,441.97
Hawaii	HI	0	\$0.00
Idaho	ID	1	-\$26.58
Illinois	IL	117	-\$7,023.64
Indiana	IN	48	-\$3,774.81
Iowa	IA	15	-\$1,501.22
Kansas	KS	2	-\$103.15
Kentucky	KY	6,420	-\$442,111.36
Louisiana	LA	12	-\$549.83
Maine	ME	4	-\$264.73
Maryland	MD	2,046	-\$179,704.71
Massachusetts	MA	32	-\$2,137.51
Michigan	MI	97	-\$5,546.56
Minnesota	MN	18	-\$860.70
Mississippi	MS	84	-\$4,303.11
Missouri	MO	5	-\$441.10
Montana	MT	1	-\$200.00
Nebraska	NE	3	-\$9.68
Nevada	NV	5	-\$545.49
New Hampshire	NH	53	-\$1,044.52
New Jersey	NJ	9	-\$840.49
New Mexico	NM	0	\$0.00
New York	NY	77	-\$5,634.54
North Carolina	NC	480	-\$36,370.12
North Dakota	ND	0	\$0.00
Ohio	OH	6,655	-\$546,842.56
Oklahoma	OK	8	-\$398.68
Oregon	OR	5	-\$594.03
Pennsylvania	PA	660	-\$49,310.79
Rhode Island	RI	0	\$0.00
South Carolina	SC	230	-\$20,329.36
South Dakota	SD	1	-\$100.00
Tennessee	TN	268	-\$19,971.65
Texas	TX	97	-\$7,362.36

Utah	UT	8	-\$342.08
Vermont	VT	0	\$0.00
Virginia	VA	8,703	-\$775,471.66
Washington	WA	5	-\$402.97
Wisconsin	WI	4	-\$520.00
Wyoming	WY	0	\$0.00
Virgin Islands	VI	0	\$0.00
Washington D.C.	DC	24	-\$1,605.70
<b>Annual Totals</b>		<b>26,749</b>	<b>-\$2,158,629.95</b>