



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
PO Box 700  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

JENNIFER VELEZ  
*Commissioner*

September 26, 2014

Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney  
President, New Jersey Senate  
Senate Majority Office, State House  
P.O. Box 099  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0099

Honorable Vincent Prieto  
Speaker, New Jersey General Assembly  
Assembly Majority Office, State House  
P.O. Box 098  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

Dear Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Prieto:

On April 15, 2013, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Project Act (the Act), P.L. 2013, c. 45 was enacted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Christie to assist eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants obtain job training and develop the necessary skills to find and keep regular employment.

In accordance with the Act, the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits this annual report for 2014 on progress made to date to comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Project Act. The required initial report was filed on July 21, 2014; this annual report builds upon the information submitted at that time.

As indicated in the initial report, DHS issued a second request for proposals (RFP) on June 16, 2014. Three proposals were submitted in response from Blessed Ministries, Inc. of South Orange, Youthbuild Newark of Newark and The North Ward Center of Newark. All three applicants were invited to a panel interview held on August 21, 2014.

Conditional award letters were mailed to all three applicants on September 10, 2014. The award to Blessed Ministries, Inc. is conditioned only upon federal approval. We are preparing to submit Blessed Ministries' proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), for approval. Upon receipt of approval of the project, we will proceed to contract negotiations with Blessed Ministries, Inc.

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The awards to Youthbuild Newark and The North Ward Center are conditioned upon provision of additional clarifying information, as well as federal approval. We are awaiting receipt of the additional clarifying information. Upon receipt of satisfactory information, we will submit the other proposal(s) for USDA/FNS approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jennifer Velez', written over a circular stamp or watermark.

Jennifer Velez  
Commissioner

JV:14

c: Lori O'Mara-Van Driesen, OLS, OPI  
Deborah Mercer, NJ State Library