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**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS  
TO INCREASE IN APRIL BENEFITS**

**Carson City, NV**—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden today announced that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, formerly known as food stamps, will increase 13.6 percent for Nevadans beginning April 1 due to the federal stimulus package.

“Our employees at the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services have been working diligently to ensure Nevadans who receive food assistance benefits will see the larger amounts they’re entitled to under the recently passed federal legislation,” Willden said.

Benefits for SNAP will increase 13.6 percent for nearly every recipient beginning with their April benefit allocation. A single person with no income will see his or her monthly benefits increase from \$176 to \$200. For a family of four with no income, its benefits will increase from \$588 to \$668.

“I’m sure the increase will help the struggling Nevadans who receive this benefit, but I’m also hopeful these increased funds circulating in Nevada’s economy will have a broader benefit for our state,” said Governor Jim Gibbons. “This is the first money from the federal stimulus package to enter the state’s economy, and we all hope it will have the desired effect.”

In state Fiscal Year 2008, Nevada provided SNAP benefits to an average of 137,589 people per month with an average benefit of \$95.69 per person. A recent report by Federal Funds Information for States showed Nevada with the fourth-fastest growing SNAP caseload in the nation.

“This increase in benefits will not only put food on the table for low-income Nevada families, but will circulate these funds back into Nevada businesses,” said Romaine Gilliland, Administrator of the Division of Welfare & Supportive Services. “We’re pleased that program participants will see their benefits increase next month.”

The benefit increase was authorized by Congress as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information about Nevada’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and for information about eligibility and enrollment, visit <http://dwss.nv.gov>.

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