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UCOWF Praises USDA's New Enhanced Tool for Fraud Investigations

Following last week's U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food & Nutrition Administration (FNA) staff briefing on the new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) interactive database, i.e., the Centralized Operations for Retailer and Eligibility (CORE) Integrity, the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) released the following statement:

"UCOWF applauds the Agency's efforts to assist states in promoting innovative initiatives to preserve SNAP for beneficiaries," said Keith Miskie, President of UCOWF. "In particular, Shiela Corley (Acting FNA Administrator) and her team are to be commended for developing a portal that will not only serve as an immediate resource but more importantly serve as a dynamic solution for investigators that evolves the more it is used by state and local officials."

"We were particularly pleased with the investigator-friendly interface, which will include such tools as checks for deceased individuals, invalid birth dates, unverified Social Security numbers, dual enrollment(s), shelter costs exceeding income, absent parent data, and even minors appearing in multiple households. Wrapping these into a single resource will allow investigators to see in an instant what today requires months of contacting other states and investigators," added Miskie.

"UCOWF recently responded to the Agency's other FWA efforts in its October 22, 2026, public statement, and this interactive tool is consistent with those comments. It is our sincere hope that Secretary Rollins will build on this innovation and add a complementary eligibility tool like the 2018 congressionally authorized National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) that would help us move away from pay-and-chase efforts to preserving scarce taxpayer funded resources before they are ever issued. The combination of these approaches – along with HHS/CMS providing guidance for state and local investigators on SMDPM 24-005 - would provide investigators and prosecutors with the necessary clarity to fully protect beneficiaries and taxpayers alike."

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UCOWF is the only national professional organization solely dedicated to the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and recovery of fraud in public assistance programs. Our members are the boots on the ground in states, counties, territories, and federal agencies - 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.

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