



VENTURA COUNTY

Article published in the Ventura County Star newspaper on 10/28/2009:

Ventura County's Food Stamp Program had the lowest error rates in California last year, the sixth time in the past eight years that the count has topped the state list, officials said Tuesday.

The county Human Services Agency, which runs the program, was presented with an award for its accuracy from state and federal officials during Tuesday morning's meeting of the county Board of Supervisors.

The Food Stamp Program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In Ventura County, it provided \$46 million in benefits to about 19,500 households last year.

Federal and state reviews of the program showed that 99.14 percent of the county's food stamp benefits were properly awarded, the best in the state and among the best in the nation.

If the national error rate were that low, the USDA would have saved \$1.4 billion last year, said Dennis Stewart, the Director of the Western Regional Food Stamp Program.

"You really are a model for the rest of the nation," he said.

Ventura County provides great customer service!!!

An unemployed single father and child with no previous CalWORKs history applied for CalWORKs, Food Stamps and Medi-Cal. He was very distraught, had an eviction notice and was very concerned for the well being of his child. Arrah, the Client Benefit Specialist, carefully reviewed all of the father's documents and observed that the eviction notice stated that if he paid \$330.00 today, it would stop the eviction action. The worker entered all of the data into the CalWIN system and because the father had all the necessary verification with him and complied with all procedural requirements, authorized the approval of the case and issued an Electronic Benefit Transfer card the same day. These quick actions prevented the father and child from being evicted and provided them with a much needed stable source of food.