

Asset Test Removal on Food Stamp Fact Sheet

- Assets including a boat, a camper, saving account, snowmobile, etc. When you are applying for Food Stamps, you can only have under \$2,000 in assets (\$3,000 for seniors) This is one area that the Food Stamp program looks at when you apply.
- Many families are without income because the economic times and can not sell assets due to the economy. It is fiscally irresponsible to make families spend all resources to put food on the table for a few months.
- Governor Otter approved a Temporary Removal of the Asset Test on Food Stamps as a rule change starting June 1, 2009 and ending May 31, 2010
- The Food Stamp Program is our front-line defense against hunger in Idaho and the nation. It is a program with low error rates and minimal fraud—yet we know that of all Idahoans who are eligible for food stamps, only 57% participate.
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services oversees the Food Stamp Program says, “We believe that increasing the number of States that implement broad-based categorical Eligibility (asset test removal) will benefit families hurt by the economic crisis, promote savings among low income households, and simplify State policies.” Over 25 states have removed this test now.
- Like Idaho’s successful Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program—where income is counted but not assets—removal of this testing reduces workload and increases participation by eligible Idahoans.
- We understand this was a temporary rule change to be re-evaluated in one year.
- The Idaho Food Stamp Program operates with excellent leadership and program integrity. As you know, Idaho recently received a bonus award for having the third lowest negative error rate in the nation. Removal of the asset test does not change that.