

5. POLICY POSITION

ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER

BACKGROUND

An Electronic Benefits Transfer (E.B.T.) Task Force has been established to create an electronic method for the payment of government benefits, including the Food Stamps Program and Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The Southern Alliance of States is to be a partner with the Task Force in the implementation of the E.B.T. system being procured by the U.S. Treasury under their Invitation for Expression of Interest (IEI) process.

As it currently stands, the IEI process limits competition and has no provision for local participation, effectively preventing the most cost effective and practical implementation methods from being examined.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference urges the U.S. Department of Treasury to give states the authority to determine the most effective methodology for Electronic Benefits Transfer within their state based on the maximum utilization of all available resources and potential outlets for distribution and concurrent reduction of fraud. Further, the Southern Legislative Conference strongly recommends that any process adopted be open to all that wish to participate, giving benefit recipients the most cost effective and practical accessibility.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 15, 1995, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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