



Food and Nutrition  
Service

April 30, 2020

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

Larry Crutchfield  
Assistant Director  
Division of County Operations  
Department of Human Services  
700 Main Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

RE: SNAP – Arkansas Request to Use an Abbreviated Application Due to  
COVID-19 – Denial

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) denial of the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) request to adjust the information collected by the State's SNAP application.

As you may be aware, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), at the request of State agencies, to provide certain adjustments for flexibilities in SNAP. Adjustments must align with what is practicable with actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and are limited to issuance methods and application and reporting requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (FNA). However, FNS has determined that removing questions that affect eligibility from the application and removing information for households, such as rights and responsibilities, would not be appropriate at this time, particularly in light of the fact that the State has taken the adjustment to eliminate the interview.

The State may wish to consider requesting or using other adjustments that are allowable under the FFCRA. FNS guidance for States in response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>. Requests, approvals, and denials for waivers and adjustments will also be posted to this webpage.

FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current Public Health Emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Director  
Program Development Division  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program