



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

April 30, 2020

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

RE: SNAP – Arkansas Request to Not Act on Requests for Contact – Denial

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) request to adjust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(4)(vi) and 7 CFR 273.12(c)(3)(i)(B) by not closing a household's case when a household fails to respond to a Request for Contact (RFC) within 10 days.

As you may be aware, section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (P.L. 116-127) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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, due to the reporting options the State has selected, RFCs would only be required in limited circumstances where the household's eligibility is unclear due to changes in income. FNS has therefore determined that the requested change is not appropriate at this time, and is denying the State's request.

The State may wish to consider requesting a reinstatement administrative waiver 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