



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

April 17, 2020

Alexis Fernández
Chief
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SNAP – California Request to Exclude Unearned Income Due to COVID-19 – Denial

Dear Ms. Fernández:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the California Department of Social Services (DSS) request to adjust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.9(b)(2) by excluding unearned income when determining eligibility and allotments. The State agency's request does not meet the requirements for approval provided under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

As you may be aware, the FFCRA (P.L. 116-127) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue adjustments for SNAP flexibilities to States upon request. These adjustments are limited to issuance methods and application and reporting requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act. Therefore, the request to exclude unearned income is denied.

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