



Food and Nutrition
Service

August 27, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
District of Columbia Government
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – District of Columbia
Adjustment Request for Core Verification and Interview Adjustment –Due to
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Denial

Dear Ms. Seymour:

This letter is in response the District of Columbia request to adjust SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14(b)(2) and (3), which require that State agencies develop an application to be used by households when applying for recertification and requires State agencies interview households as part of the recertification process. Based on communication with District of Columbia, FNS is considering the request altered and this denial is based on the State being approved for the Periodic Report Flexibility for Non-Extended Recertification Cases. FNS is not able to approved both the Core Verification and Interview Adjustment and Periodic Report Flexibility for Non-Extended Recertification Cases.

FNS recognizes that the State is facing workload challenges at this time due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, based on the data submitted by the State, FNS is denying this request because the adjustment is not necessary to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in the State. FNS would like to work with the State agency in moving to operations that are consistent with SNAP regulations.

FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance and will consider future requests for adjustments if circumstances in the State change, such as a spike in new applications, or the general workload increases, and sufficient data is provided to support these flexibilities during the public health emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

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 of waivers and adjustments related to COVID-19 will also be posted to this webpage.

Sincerely,

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