



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 Recertification Requirements Due to Novel
Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Denial

Dear Ms. Seymour:

This letter is in response to the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) request to adjust SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14(a) and 273.14(d)(2), which provide that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period without a determination of eligibility for a new period and requires States to notify households of their eligibility or ineligibility by the end of the household's current certification period.

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.

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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