

From: [Jenkins, Bill - FNS](#)
To: [Fitzgerald, Ray \(DHSS\)](#)
Cc: [Hall, Thomas \(DHSS\)](#); [Perez, Takeya \(DHSS\)](#); [Spady, Marcella \(DHSS\)](#); [SM.FN.SNAP-PDD-COVID](#); [Ratchford, Eric - FNS](#); [Gagliardi, David - FNS](#); [Boger, Kelly - FNS](#); [Lometz, Alexis - FNS](#); [Hayes, Alyssa - FNS](#)
Subject: FW: COVID-19 DE Adjustment Extensions Approvals - July and August
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:02:30 AM
Attachments: [Delaware's Response to FNS Questions and Justification for Waiving Initial and Recertification Interviews and Extension Request for Renewals and Periodic .docx](#)
[Delaware's Third Extension of the Declaration of the State of Emergency 06062020.pdf](#)
[DE Fourth-Extension-of-State-of-Emergency-07062020.pdf](#)
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[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Dear Ray,

Thank you for Delaware's request on July 23, 2020. Your request to extend the following adjustments has been approved through August 31, 2020:

Eliminating Initial Certification and Recertification Interviews – COV-091
Extending Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements – COV-009

All terms and conditions outlined within the previously approved adjustments apply. Please note, the evaluation report deadline remains 45 days after the end of the adjustments. Data only needs to be provided once per adjustment, regardless of the duration of the waiver.

As noted in our previous email, FNS will approve extensions beyond August on an extremely limited basis. In order to receive an extension beyond August, a State must have an emergency order that extends into the month in which the State is requesting the adjustment and provide data that demonstrates that the adjustment continues to be warranted given the current circumstances in the State. FNS expects requests include data on substantial increases in new applications in recent months (e.g. July and August for September adjustment), sizable increases in a backlog of case actions or applications, or a significant decrease in staffing capacity due to COVID-19, among other supporting information. States are expected to reasonably adjust to changing circumstances, including caseload growth, and FNS will not approve requests where the data is merely comparable with the State agency's data from non-COVID-19 circumstances in which FNS was working with the State under a corrective action plan. These requests should also include plans to return to a new normal in a short time frame. States must submit these requests by the 10th day of the month before the adjustment would take effect with a response due back from FNS to the State by the 15th. Because approvals for adjustments beyond August will be extremely limited, States should make arrangements to ensure they are able to return to their new normal by September 1, 2020.

We stand ready to provide technical assistance and answer any of your questions.

Thank you,
Bill

Bill Jenkins
Branch Chief, SNAP Program Integrity

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

From: Spady, Marcella (DHSS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:46 PM
To: Jenkins, Bill - FNS [REDACTED]; Gagliardi, David - FNS [REDACTED];
Boger, Kelly - FNS [REDACTED]
Cc: Lometz, Alexis - FNS [REDACTED]; Gallagher, Teresa (DHSS)
[REDACTED]; Hall, Thomas (DHSS) [REDACTED]; Perez, Takeya
(DHSS) [REDACTED]
Subject: Extension Request: Extending Certification Periods and Adjusting Periodic Reports – Blanket Approval and Eliminate Interview at Certification and Recertification

Good evening,

Delaware is requesting the following waiver extensions for July and August:

**Extending Certification Periods and Adjusting Periodic Reports – Blanket Approval
Eliminate Interview at Certification and Recertification**

Delaware’s State of Emergency (SOE) declaration was extended on July 6, 2020. Please see the attached declaration outlining the statements from the SOE that support the extension of the current waivers. The SOE is active for another 30 days from June 6, 2020 through July 6, 2020. Please note that the State of Emergency declaration can only be extended for 30 days at a time.

Delaware has experienced operational challenges with the capacity of the workforce which is currently 37%, increased call volume especially with the P-EBT program that was implemented. In addition, Delaware is still working through issues with 30% of the staff accessing the eligibility system remotely as well as the reduction in staffing available to work due to health conditions as well as vacancies.

Thanks for your consideration and please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Regards,

MARCELLA SPADY
SNAP Policy Administrator
Policy and Program Development Unit



Division of Social Services
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