



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs

500 Summer St. NE

Salem, OR 97301



March 20, 2020

Charles Tobin, Director

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Food & Nutrition Services (FNS)

Western Regional Office

90 Seventh St, Suite 10-100

San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Tobin,

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking multiple waivers allowing for the needed flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining essential services. Additional flexibilities are required to adequately protect customers, staff, communities and vulnerable populations and support the guidance for social distancing.

The approval and implementation of these waivers will streamline workflow and provide reasonable and needed flexibility to respond to the increased volume of new applications and ongoing need for current SNAP customers caused by COVID-19.

In addition, Oregon recognizes the imminent need to rapidly operate a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programming (D-SNAP). To this effect, please also find attached a proposal for implementation of D-SNAP in Oregon. The waivers and the implementation of D-SNAP are crucial for ongoing services to SNAP households, allowing staff to focus on meeting timeliness and reporting requirements during the D-SNAP application period.

If you have any questions about the attached you can contact me at heather.j.miles@state.or.us or by phone at 503-302-1063.

Sincerely,

Heather Miles

SNAP, CSFP & TEFAP Program Manager

Oregon Department of Human Services

Self-Sufficiency Programs, 500 Summer St. NE, E48

Salem, OR 97301-1066

Desk: 503-945-6092 Cell: 503-302-1063

cc: Dan Haun (Oregon, SSP Director); Claire Seguin (Oregon, SSP Deputy Director); Shahdy Monemzadeh (FNS-WRO); Elizabeth Albert (FNS-WRO)

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Oregon is seeking the approval to immediately implement the following short-term waivers in response to the President's COVID-19 emergency declaration:

Description of Waiver Request	Regulation being waived
Allows the State Agency to waive the restriction of purchasing prepared foods to specific households and would allow households in areas declared as a public health emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic to use their EBT benefits to purchase hot or prepared foods.	7 CFR 274.7 (a) and 7 CFR 274.7 (g)
Allows the State agency to extend the certification period for 2 months beyond the maximum 12/24-month certification period(s) without requiring a new application for households residing in an area affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Households certified for an additional 2 months will be advised to apply to continue receiving SNAP after their additional 2 months of eligibility.	7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)
Allows the State Agency to waive the requirement to conduct an interview prior to approving SNAP benefits for individuals eligible for expedited service or who meet the SNAP definition of disabled or elderly.	7 CFR 273.14(b)(3) and 273.2 (e)(2)
Allows the state agency to process periodic reports without requiring contact with the household. The State Agency will review IEVS screens and update without requiring contact with the household, unless questionable information is identified. Households are not required to file a periodic report in order to continue with the remainder of their certification.	7 CFR 273.12(a)
Allows the individual to regain eligibility if, at the time they reapply, they are not able to complete activities due to COVID-19.	7 CFR 273.24(d)
Allows the State agency to accept the client statement regarding their gross nonexempt income when the income verification is not readily available and can't be verified electronically or by phone.	7 CFR 273.2(f)(1)