

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER
TO EXEMPT SNAP RECIPIENTS FROM WORK REGISTRATION FOR DURATION
OF PANDEMIC**

- 1. Waiver Serial Number:**
- 2. Type of Request:** New
- 3. Statutory Citation:** 7 U.S.C. § 2015 (d)(1)(A)(i)
- 4. Primary Regulation Citation:** 7 C.F.R. § 273.7 (a) (i)
- 5. State:** West Virginia
- 6. Region:** MARO
- 7. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements to be Waived:** 7 U.S.C. § 2015 (d)(1)(A)(i) and 7 C.F.R. § 273.7 (a) (i)
- 8. Proposed Alternative Procedure:** The State of West Virginia (Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Family Assistance) is requesting approval of a waiver to allow the State to waive the requirement that non-exempt household “[r]egister for work or be registered by the State agency at the time of application and every 12 months after initial registration...” until the month following the month the public health emergency is lifted.
- 9. Justification for Request:** Since the onset of the declared national health epidemic, the number of West Virginians filing for unemployment benefits and other assistance through WorkForce WV--which serves as the organization that processes both unemployment claims and workforce registration for the SNAP program—has increased exponentially.

Due to the current spike in unemployment claims, WorkForce WV is stating that they cannot handle workforce registration in a timely manner and has requested the DHHR’s assistance in temporarily suspending referrals for registration. Even if the referrals are made, given current staff obligations, these would not be processed timely.

In addition, not all SNAP recipients have reliable internet or phone access. WorkForce WV has closed its doors to the public, so these individuals—particularly homeless individuals—do not have a reasonable method to register.

Due to circumstances outside of the household’s control, SNAP recipients are not able to comply with federal requirements. As such, they should not be penalized during this time of a declared emergency when social distancing is being encouraged.

- 10. Anticipated Impact on Households and State Agency:** The anticipated impact on SNAP households is positive as it would prevent closures due to circumstances outside the household's control. This would have a small, temporary decrease in workload on DHHR.
- 11. Caseload Information:** Total SNAP Caseload in West Virginia as of April, 2020 was 294,096 individuals in 155,648 households. The estimated number of unduplicated work registrants in FFY 2020 is 53,284.
- 12. Proposed Implementation Date and Time Period for Which the Demonstration Project is Requested:** Due to the emergency circumstances this waiver is intended to respond to, DHHR wishes to implement this waiver statewide immediately upon approval.
- 13. Proposed Quality Control Review Procedures:** Quality Control would not consider work registration as an eligibility criterion from the date of waiver approval through the first certification action taken following the end of the waiver.
- 14. Name and Title of Requesting Official and Signature:** Linda Watts, Commissioner, Bureau for Children and Families, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.



Signature

Commissioner, Bureau for Children and Families

- 16. Date of State agency's request:** March 31, 2020