

# WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:**
2. **Type of Request:** Initial
3. **Primary Regulation Citation:** 7CFR 273.10(f)(10)(5)
4. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western Region
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) provide that the State must certify eligible households for a definite period of time. Certification periods may not exceed 12 months except for households that are composed of all elderly or disabled members. These households may be certified for up to 24 months.

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5) provide that a household is enrolled in a simplified reporting and required to report any changes on their periodic reports.

8. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:** An extension of the certification period will be granted to all SNAP households in the state during the COVID-19 national emergency to allow the reduced number of eligibility workers to process new applications within federally required timelines. The certification period will be extended beyond their currently scheduled expiration date.

By extending the certification period, this will ensure SNAP households in Idaho continue to receive benefits without disruptions. This waiver will be in effect until all Idaho offices can resume operations under normal processing standards in place prior to the COVID-19 national emergency.


9. **Justification for Request:** The request is justified pursuant to 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(ii) which permits FNS to authorize waivers that result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program. The approval of this waiver extension would allow Idaho to ensure households continue to receive their SNAP benefits during this health crisis.

10. **Anticipated Impact on Household and State Agency Operations:** The waiver will prevent benefits from ending during this health crisis because offices are reducing or shutting down altogether due to public health safety concerns and the reduction of staff caused by illness, self-isolation and limited access to telecommuting. These factors will significantly limit the number of cases workers who will be able to process and complete during this health crisis.

11. **Caseload Information (including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion):** This waiver applies to 100% of our SNAP households. In January 2020, Idaho had 67,838 active SNAP cases. The number of new SNAP cases in Idaho has increased over the last five months and we anticipate seeing additional increases during the health crisis.

- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** We request implementation beginning May 1, 2020 through the end of the COVID-19 health crisis.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special provisions are being requested at this time. We will follow regular QC procedures, unless special guidance is provided by FNS specific to the COVID-19 health crisis.
- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Julie Hammon, Administrator



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- 15. Date of request:** 03/17/2020