


STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request: Extension COV-100**
2. **Regulatory citation:** 7CFR 273.14 (b) (3), 273.2(e)(2), 7 CFR 275.2 (a), 7CFR 273.2 (f)(1)
3. **State: Maryland**
4. **Region: Mid-Atlantic Region**
5. **Regulatory requirements:** Regulatory requirements: SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 275.2 (a)(2), 273.2(e) and 273.14 (b) (3) allows the agency to waive the face-to-face and telephone interview provided the applicant's identity has been verified and all other mandatory verifications have been submitted 7CFR 273.2 (f)(1)
6. **Description of alternative procedures:** Maryland is proposing to waive the requirement that all households receive an interview (face to face and by telephone) at initial application and recertification because of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).
7. **Justification for request:** Governor Larry Hogan has declared a State of Emergency for Maryland, which remains in effect, due to the Outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We believe this waiver will limit exposure of State staff to this highly contagious disease, and promote the health and safety of customers as well as staff. All DHS Local Department of Social Services offices remain closed to the general public with minimal in person options for emergency situations. In addition, Local Departments of Social Services have limited hours/staffing capacity due to social distancing.
 - [White House Approval of Maryland's Emergency Declaration](#)
 - <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/proclamation-covid-19.pdf>
 - [Maryland's Road to Recovery Guidelines](https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MD_Strong.pdf)
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8. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** We believe this will have a positive impact on SNAP households. The approval of this waiver will positively impact the state's ability to accurately and timely process SNAP benefits. In addition, this measure has the likelihood of saving lives as it will be part of Maryland's multi-prong strategy to contain COVID-19 and ensure a rapid return to normalcy for the citizens of the State.

- 9. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion:** This waiver will affect ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households in local departments with the implementation of this waiver. The average number of households receiving SNAP in Maryland has remained steady over the last two years from an average of 338,722 per month in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 to 336,926 per month in SFY 2020. FFY 2020 cumulative SNAP payment error rate is 5.42% as of July 2020.
- 10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** September 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.
- 11. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no changes to the Quality Control Review process with the exception of face to face interviews.
- 12. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** Maryland
- 13. Signature and title of requesting official:**
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- La Sherra Ayala**
Acting Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Department of Human Services
- 14. Date of request:** August 10, 2020
- 15. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**