

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** New
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.14(a), 273.10(f)(1), (2); 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) and section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act)
- 4.
5. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
6. **State:** Michigan
7. **Region:** Midwest Region

8. **Regulatory requirements:**

No household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

The State agency must certify each eligible household for a definite period of time. State agencies must assign the longest certification period possible based on the predictability of the household's circumstances. The first month of the certification period will be the first month for which the household is eligible to participate. The certification period cannot exceed 12 months except to accommodate a household's transitional benefit period and as specified in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2) of this section. *Households in which all adult members are elderly or disabled.* The State agency may certify for up to 24 months households in which all adult members are elderly or disabled. The State agency must have at least one contact with each household every 12 months. The State agency may use any method it chooses for this contact.

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- 9. Proposed alternative procedures:** The State will extend all recertifications that are due for September through December 2020 for a maximum of 8 months. September recertifications will be extended and equally divided between January and February 2021. November recertifications will be extended and equally divided between March and April 2021. October recertifications will be extended and equally divided between May and June 2021. November recertifications will be extended and equally divided between July and August 2021. These extensions will not apply to recertifications that were originally due from March through June 2020, but were extended due to the COVID-19 waivers.
- 10. Justification for request:** On January 31, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern as well as Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States. Michigan's Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, declared a state of emergency (Executive Order 2020-4) for the state of Michigan on March 10, 2020 to protect Michigan citizens from the risks of COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to Michigan's implementation of the COVID-19 waivers allowing states to extend March – June 2020 recertifications by 6 months, the recertification volume for September through December 2020 is now double the average recertifications. Additionally, Michigan's overall household numbers have increased by over 180,000 households from February to June 2020. Allowing a staggered extension for recertifications due for September through December 2020 will allow local offices to focus efforts on recertifications that were originally extended due to the COVID-19 crisis. This waiver will also allow the state to redistribute recertification numbers more uniformly over the upcoming months.

- 11. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**
- 12. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver will apply to all SNAP applicants and recipient households. Michigan's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 quality control error rate was 11.53%. The number of Michigan's SNAP recipients as of May 2020 was 1,528,379.
- 13. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** This waiver applies to SNAP applications received and recertifications due in September 2020 through December 2020.
- 14. Proposed quality control review procedures:** Cases will be reviewed in accordance with this waiver approval.
- 15. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Dawn M. Sweeney

16. Signature and title of requesting official:

Dawn M. Sweeney

**Dawn M. Sweeney
Michigan SNAP Administrator**

17. Date of request: 6/30/2020

18. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Dawn M. Sweeney,
sweeneyd1@michigan.gov , (517) 243-5560

19. Regional office contact person: