



Minnesota Department of Human Services
Economic Assistance and Employment Support Division
444 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 29, 2020

Julie Mikkelson, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
77 West Jackson Street, 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3591

Dear Ms. Mikkelson,

Attached please find a request from Minnesota to waive regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(n) which states, Authorized Representatives may act on behalf of a household in the application process, in obtaining SNAP benefits, and in using SNAP benefits. A non-household member may be designated as an authorized representative for the application process provided that the person is an adult who is sufficiently aware of relevant household circumstances and the authorized representative designation has been made in writing by the head of the household, the spouse, or another responsible member of the household.

Minnesota is under a Stay At Home Order issued by Governor Tim Walz. Many individuals will rely on SNAP benefits during the COVID-19 health crisis but are unable to apply for assistance on their own and rely on community partners and advocates to assist them through the process. By allowing the community partners and advocates to obtain Authorized Representative status through verbal attestation, the application can be submitted via [APPLYMN.gov](https://www.applymn.gov) on behalf of the customer.

Status of virus in Minnesota:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>

We welcome your feedback on the successful use of the waiver and look forward to providing any further information you may need.

If you have questions, please contact me at 651-431-3942.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Kathy Bruen, Manager, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Enclosures

CC: Melissa Cundari, Branch Chief, Program Integrity, FNS Midwest Region (via email)

Erica Kain, Branch Chief, Policy, FNS Midwest Region (via email)

Tikki Brown, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity and Nutrition Assistance (via email)