



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
*DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY*  
*BUREAU OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE*

Lori A. Shibinette  
Commissioner

Christine L. Santaniello  
Director

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857  
603-271-9700 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9700  
Fax: 603-271-4637 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 [www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov)

April 6, 2020

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Northeast Region  
10 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

Attached, please find New Hampshire's waiver request to allow currently ineligible students to be considered eligible without meeting any student exemptions. With the closure of schools, including institutions of higher learning, and businesses, the State sees a benefit from approval of this waiver for three groups of households.

First, ineligible students may be returning to households who are already receiving SNAP benefits but now have an additional family member to feed. In addition, member(s) of that household, as well as the student him or herself, may have lost employment. By allowing their ineligible student to be determined eligible, the household's benefit would increase.

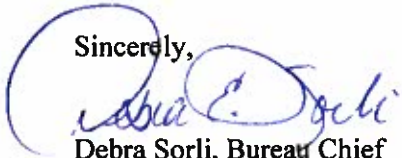
Secondly, there are likely to be households who would qualify for SNAP assistance if the ineligible student could be counted as a member of the household. These households would then be able to have assistance that would benefit them.

Finally, a student who has had to leave school due to a closure, and either has lost or cannot find work, which is very likely, may wish to apply as a household of one.

If you have any questions please contact Maureen Burke, Administrator III, at 603-271-9660. She can also be reached at [Maureen.Burke@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Maureen.Burke@dhhs.nh.gov)

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Debra Sorli, Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Family Assistance

Cc: Maureen Burke

## Waiver Request

**1. Waiver serial number:**

**2. Type of request:** Initial

**3. Primary regulation citations:** 273.5(a)

**4. Secondary regulation citation, if any:** 273.5(b)(B)(5)

**5. State:** New Hampshire

**6. Region:** Northeast (NERO)

**7. Regulatory requirements:**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 273.5(a) state that an individual who is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher learning shall be ineligible to receive SNAP benefits unless s/he is meeting certain exemption criteria.

SNAP regulations at 273.5(b) enumerate the exemptions which students in institutions of higher education must meet in order to be exempt and allowed to be eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

**8. Proposed alternative procedures:**

The State of New Hampshire is requesting that students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education to be eligible to participate in SNAP whether or not they meet any of the exemptions.

**9. Justification for Request:**

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the closing of schools and business. Many students have been sent home as a result of school closings and many are currently unable to meet any of the required exemptions, including the work requirement.

**10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**

This waiver will make it possible for students to qualify for SNAP benefits without meeting any of the student exemptions. It will allow SNAP households with a household member who is currently an ineligible student to increase their household size and receive a larger SNAP benefit due to the larger household size.

**11. Caseload Information including percent of caseload and description of caseload expected to be effected by this waiver:**

New Hampshire currently has 201 households with ineligible students. Applying the current New Hampshire poverty rate for adults between the ages of 18 and 59 to the total current number of students registered at New Hampshire colleges and universities, we have estimated that another 6,811 students would be likely to be eligible if they applied ( $\Sigma=7,012$ ).

**12. Proposed Implementation:**

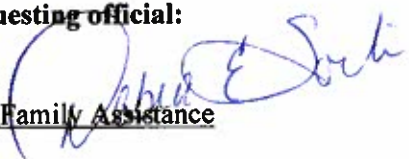
New Hampshire would like to make this waiver effective May 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

**13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special Quality Control procedures will be required.

**14. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Name: Debra Sorli

Title: Bureau Chief, Bureau of Family Assistance



**15. Date of request:** April 6, 2020

**16. State Agency Staff Contacts:**

Name: Maureen Burke and/or Laurie.Green

Phone: 603-271-9660 and/or 603-271-9287

E-mail: Maureen.Burke@dhhs.nh.gov and/or Laurie.Green@dhhs.nh.gov

**Regional Office Contact:** *(to be completed by FNS Regional Office)*