STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2. Type of request: Initial

3. Regulatory citation: 7 CFR 273.5(a)

4. State: Nevada

5. Region: WRO

- **6. Regulatory requirements:** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at CFR 273.5(a) state that an individual who is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education shall be ineligible to participate in SNAP, unless the individual qualifies for one of the exemptions contained in paragraph (b) of this section.
- 7. **Description of alternative procedures:** Nevada is requesting a waiver of regulations at 7 CFR 273.5(a) to allow students who are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education to be eligible to participate in SNAP without being required to meet one of the exemptions in 7 CFR 273.5(b).
- **8. Justification for request:** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses, employers, and school offices are closed. This makes it extremely challenging for our front-line eligibility staff to verify student enrollment, verify if the school meets the definition of an institution of higher education, or verify if a student is approved to participate in a work study program. Additionally, many Nevada businesses have been closed as a result of the pandemic, which has resulted in job loss for those students who were employed.
- 9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will allow students in higher education to be eligible for SNAP without the requirement to meet an exemption in 7 CFR 273.5(b) or for the division to verify if a student meets one of these exemptions.
- 10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): This waiver is applicable to Nevada's entire SNAP caseload.
- 11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed: March 18, 2020 through June 30, 2020.
- **12. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.

Contact Person: Steve H. Fisher, Administrator

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

1470 College Parkway Carson City, Nevada 89706 shfisher@dwss.nv.gov

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Steve H. Fisher, Administrator

Email for transmission of response: shfisher@dwss.nv.gov

15. Date of request: April 1, 2020.

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Sheri Gallucci, SNAP Program Specialist Division of Welfare and Supportive Services <u>sgallucci@dwss.nv.gov</u>

775-684-0608.

17. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):