



Food and
Nutrition
Service

April 10, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Melissa K. Yerges
Office of Inspector General
Bureau of Administration, Policy and Training
555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Pennsylvania request to suspend claims recoupment through allotment reductions and delinquency determination due to COVID-19 - Approval

Dear Ms. Yerges:

This letter transmits approval of the Pennsylvania Office of Inspector General request to suspend recoupment of SNAP claims overpayments through allotment reduction and to send an offset notice when a client is at a second payment late delinquency status. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving these requests through May 31, 2020, pursuant to 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i), which authorizes FNS to approve waivers requested due to extraordinary temporary situations.

FNS approves the State agency's request to temporarily suspend SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(g)(1), which require State agencies to automatically collect payments for any claim by reducing the amount of monthly benefits that a household receives. The State agency may suspend allotment reduction and allow affected beneficiaries to receive their full benefit amount through May 31, 2020.

The State agency also requested approval to waive immediate posting of payments received via check or money order. SNAP has no specific regulatory requirements regarding the timing of the posting of payments. Therefore, no waiver is required for this request. The State agency has flexibility to adjust its systems to ensure appropriate payment processing. However, FNS understands that an inability to process payments due to office closures will lead to an inability to determine payment delinquency.

FNS also approves a temporary suspension of SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which require a claim to be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date. The State agency requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to send a 60-day offset notice when a client is at a second payment late delinquency status, because the State is unable to determine delinquency when they are unable to process payments received. The State agency may delay determinations of delinquency, thus also delaying the offset notice until the appropriate delinquency period has been determined.

Ms. Melissa K. Yerges
Page 2

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

4/10/2020

X Ronald K. Ward

Ronald K. Ward
Director, Program Accountability and Administrati...
Signed by: Department of Agriculture