



HENRY McMASTER, GOVERNOR
MICHAEL LEACH, STATE DIRECTOR

March 30, 2020

Willie C. Taylor, Regional Administrator
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Please find enclosed South Carolina's request to issue suspend the collection and establishment of overpayments claims based on the public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a State of Emergency based on a determination that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) poses and actual or imminent public health emergency for the State of South Carolina. With this emergency declaration, South Carolina is requesting to suspend all collection efforts and actions on any Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program overpayment claims for a period of ninety (90) days beginning April 1, 2020.

Please contact Dana Outlaw at Dana.Outlaw@dss.sc.gov, or Brad Bundrick at Brad.Bundrick@dss.sc.gov if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amber Gillum'.

Amber Gillum
Deputy State Director, Economic Services

Enclosure

cc: Eugene Malveaux, SNAP Branch Chief, FNS SERO

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial number:**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.18(a), 7 CFR 273.18(e)(3)(v), 7CFR 273.18(e)(5)
4. **State:** South Carolina
5. **Region:** SERO
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Pursuant to 7 CFR 273.18(a), States must establish and collect any claim resulting from the overpayment or trafficking of benefits; 7 CFR 273.18(e)(3)(v) requires that claim repayment is due no later than thirty (30) days after the date of initial household notification; and 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5) claims will be considered delinquent if it is not paid by the due date and a satisfactory payment agreement has not been made, a payment arrangement has been established and a scheduled payment has not been made by the due date, and the claim will remain delinquent until payment is received in full, a satisfactory payment agreement is negotiated, or allotment reduction is invoked.
7. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SC DSS) is seeking a waiver to suspend all collection efforts and actions on any Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) overpayment claims for a period of ninety (90) days for all SNAP recipients who currently have an overpayment. In addition, South Carolina is seeking to suspend the establishment of claims in order to afford administrative flexibilities to effectively deploy State Benefit Integrity staff to assist with eligibility efforts for clients affected by COVID-19. South Carolina is requesting the suspension of all claims collection and establishment be approved statewide, as all counties offices within South Carolina have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.
8. **Justification for request:** South Carolina's request to suspend claims establishment and collection is based on the adverse effects COVID-19 has had on SNAP households living in South Carolina, and that these effects are anticipated to continue for some time. Suspending claims collection and establishment will provide SNAP households financial relief from debt repayment during this unprecedented time in our state's history.
9. **Anticipated impact on households and state agency operation:** In additional to providing financial relief from debt repayment, this waiver will ensure that approximately 37,000 SNAP households receive their full benefit amount during the requested relief period and allow the State to more effectively use staff to concentrate on the timely processing of SNAP applications to ensure continuity of program access.

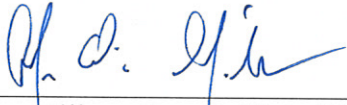
10. **Quality control procedures:** The proposal does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.
11. **Date of State agency's request:** March 30, 2020
12. **Anticipated implementation date:** The anticipated start date is 04/01/2020 and the time period for which South Carolina would request the waiver is ninety (90) days.
13. **State agency contact (name/email/telephone):**

Name: Brad Bundrick

Title: Benefit Integrity Manager, Division of County Operations, Office of Economic Services

Email: Brad.Bundrick@dss.sc.gov

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



Amber Gillum, Deputy State Director
Office of Economic Services
Amber.Gillum@dss.sc.gov