



Food and Nutrition
Service

June 28, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Justine Welker
Interim SNAP Program Manager
Human and Community Services Division
Department of Public Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 202925
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: SNAP - Montana Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust
Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Extension - Denial

Dear Ms. Welker:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) adjustment request (COV-028) to continue to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide ending July 2020.

FNS recognizes that the State is facing challenges in processing ongoing cases for recertification at this time due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, based on the data submitted by the State, FNS does not find that an extension of the adjustment is necessary to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in the State. For similar reasons, FNS also denies the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in July 2020. FNS would like to work with the State agency on a transition plan that moves the State forward toward operations that are consistent with certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) for cases with certification periods ending July 2020.

FNS guidance for States in response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>. Requests, approvals, and denials of waivers and adjustments related to COVID-19 will also be posted to this webpage.

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FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance and will consider future requests for adjustments in subsequent months if circumstances in the State change, such as a spike in new applications, and sufficient data is provided to support these flexibilities during the public health emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program