



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

April 17, 2020

Toni Blue Washington
Director
Division of Benefit Programs
Department of Social Services
801 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: SNAP – Virginia Request to Adjust SNAP Application Processing Timeliness
in Response to COVID-19 – Denial

Dear Ms. Washington:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of Virginia's request to adjust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application processing timeliness requirements.

As you may be aware, section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (P.L. 116-127) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide certain adjustments for flexibilities in SNAP. Adjustments must align with what is practicable with actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and are limited to issuance methods and application and reporting requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (FNA). FNS has determined that this request does not meet the requirements for approval.

Therefore, FNS is denying requests that seek to:

- Adjust requirements to process SNAP applications within 30 days at Section 11(e)(3) of the FNA and 7 CFR 273.2(g)(1);
- Adjust requirements to process SNAP applications within 7 days for households entitled to expedited service at Section 11(e)(9) of the FNA and 7 CFR 273.2(i)(3);
- Adjust the definition of opportunity to participate at 7 CFR 274.2(b).

FNS encourages States to use available administrative flexibilities such as online applications and request or use allowable FFCRA adjustments such as interview requirement adjustments to meet the 7- or 30-day timeframes. FNS guidance for States in response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>. Approved adjustment requests will also be posted to this webpage.

FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current Public Health Emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Director
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program