



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

March 24, 2020

Jesus Mendoza, Jr. Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region
United States Department of Agriculture
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Mendoza:

Washington State is requesting a waiver to allow SNAP-Ed staff time to assist in meal planning, purchasing, packaging, preparing, and distributing with open food distribution sites serving the SNAP-eligible population in response to the current COVID-19 emergency situation.

The proposed waiver would allow SNAP-Ed providers to maintain or create important partnerships with schools and food banks that serve SNAP-Ed goals while remaining connected, if indirectly, to the community they serve by providing much-needed food distribution support during the unprecedented outbreak. Schools and food banks are the top programming sites for SNAP-Ed in Washington State.

We look forward to hearing from your office on this request in the very near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ezra Paskus at (360) 725-4311 or by email at Ezra.Paskus@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division

Attachment

Cc: Charles Tobin, FNS
Brian Solomon, FNS
Maribelle Balbes, FNS

Shahdy Monemzadeh, FNS
Alexis Marx
Ezra Paskus

Shawn Hartline
Sonja Dearmore
Monica Medalen

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

SNAP-Ed Assistance in Food Distribution

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 2 CFR 200 Subpart E; SNAP-Ed Guidance Page 78, 80, 82, 83
4. **State:** Washington
5. **Region:** Western
6. **Regulatory requirements:** According to the SNAP-Ed Guidance, unallowable costs include:
 - school-based food service activities, paying food service workers, or any efforts focused on implementing new meal patterns for reimbursable meals or snacks;
 - ongoing snack or food service;
 - meal sized portions or complete meal service;
 - cost of food provided as groceries or supplemental food;
 - Training or development costs of food service workers or others not directly associated with delivery of SNAP-Ed; and
 - Salaries for retail store staff, farmers market managers, or food service workers for service operations.
7. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Under the proposed waiver, SNAP-Ed staff time could be used to assist in meal planning, purchasing, packaging, preparing, and distributing with open food distribution sites serving the SNAP-eligible population, including schools and food banks. In addition to schools and food banks, SNAP-Ed providers could offer these services in other food distribution settings that reach the SNAP-eligible population. This waiver request does not include allowing SNAP-Ed funds to pay for the cost of food provided as groceries or supplemental foods.
8. **Justification for request:** The proposed waiver would allow SNAP-Ed providers to maintain or create important partnerships with schools and food banks that serve SNAP-Ed goals while remaining connected, if indirectly, to the community they serve by providing much-needed food distribution support during the unprecedented outbreak.

Schools and food banks are the top programming sites for SNAP-Ed in Washington State. In response to COVID-19, all schools in Washington State are closed at least until April 24. FNS approved waivers enabling Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during

school closures related to the coronavirus. Food banks rely on volunteer support, and many regular volunteers are older adults who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and therefore no longer volunteering. SNAP-Ed educators have expertise in nutrition and safe food handling but cannot perform planned in-person activities, which for some constitutes a large portion of work, as all have been suspended for the health and safety of the eligible participants and providers.

- 9. Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver: NA**
- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver would increase the capacity of schools, summer meal sites, and food banks to distribute meals to SNAP-eligible children and adults. This waiver would not impact State agency operations.
- 11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):** SNAP-Ed providers will participate in meal planning, purchasing, packaging, preparation, distributing, and cleaning with qualifying food distribution sites from the approval date of this waiver until the end of the national emergency or USDA revokes the waiver.
- 12. Proposed quality control review procedures: NA**
- 13. Name, title, and email of requesting official:**
Name: Babs Roberts
Title: Director, Community Services Division
Email: ROBERBA@dshs.wa.gov
- 14. Date of request: 3/23/2020**
- 15. State agency staff contact:**
Name: Angela Amico
Title: SNAP-Ed Program Manager
Email: amicoad@dshs.wa.gov
- 16. Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**