

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2. Type of request:

Initial

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.5(a) and (b)(5)

4. State:

Wyoming

5. Region:

Mountain Plains

6. Regulatory requirements:

Section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and Federal regulation defines household members at least half-time in an institution of higher education are not eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) unless they meet certain student exemptions.

7 CFR 237.5(b)(5) identifies the students enrolled in an institution of higher education may be eligible for SNAP if they meet the exemption of being employed a minimum of 20 hours per week.

7. Proposed alternative procedures:

The Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) is requesting a waiver to allow students of higher education who are impacted due to COVID-19 to qualify for SNAP regardless of employment status. DFS will re-evaluate for student eligibility at the next periodic report or eligibility review after the pandemic has ceased.

8. Justification for request:

This request is justified pursuant to 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(ii) which permits FNS to authorize waivers that result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

On March 20, 2020, Wyoming State Health Officer, Alexia Harrist, issued an emergency proclamation mandating closure of restaurants, bars, child care facilities and entertainment and recreational facilities across the State of Wyoming. Additionally, CDC recommends to limit gatherings to no more than ten people. Due to the evolving situation, DFS recognizes the need to do more to provide assistance to those impacted by COVID-19 related closures.

Students who are eligible for SNAP are impacted by the closing of businesses and are unable to work the required 20 hours a week mandated in the regulation. DFS is requesting to waive the regulation that students work an average of 20 hours a week to maintain SNAP eligibility.

9. Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver:

Wyoming served a total of 11,527 SNAP households in February 2020. This is a total of 25,797 individuals served. Of those total individuals, 638 adults (age 18+) are students and that application met the current student requirements.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

Maintaining SNAP benefits for eligible students during this crisis is crucial. DFS will ensure students remain eligible during this time when they report a change in employment due to widespread business closures. DFS only anticipates a small increase of students applying for SNAP as DFS is only serving a small number of adult students at this time.


11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):

DFS anticipates implementation of this waiver immediately upon approval to avoid lapse in eligibility for students that have been out of work as of March 20, 2020, as a result of the proclamation for closures.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

The proposal does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.

13. Name, title, and email of requesting official:


Name: Korin Schmidt, Director
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14. Date of request:

15. State agency staff contact:

Name: Marianne Kerzman, SNAP Program Manager
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16. Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):