



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 21, 2026

Leanna Johnston, Director  
Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Division of Family Assistance and Child Support  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Director Johnston:

On May 11, 2026, the Tennessee Department of Human Services requested to modify the restricted food and beverage definitions of its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Food Restriction Waiver.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves this modification request. As expressed in its request, Tennessee seeks to modify its restricted foods definitions to clarify what are allowable and unallowable items under its waiver and ease implementation for retailers. The State is clarifying that infant formulas will remain allowable for purchase with SNAP benefits. This modification makes no changes to Tennessee's implementation date nor their planned approach to implementation. As approved by FNS on December 10, 2025, Tennessee will implement their project on July 31, 2026. All other terms and conditions, as outlined in the December 2025 approval, remain in effect.

FNS applauds Tennessee and its SNAP team for the efforts you have made towards the implementation of your SNAP Food Restriction pilot. We look forward to continuing to support you in your efforts to successfully implement this innovative and impactful project on July 31, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick A. Penn", written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

PATRICK A. PENN  
Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service  
Deputy Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure

**TENNESSEE SNAP FOOD RESTRICTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT WAIVER:  
MODIFICATION TO RESTRICTED FOODS DEFINITION**

**Processed Foods:**

Restricted “processed foods” are defined by Tennessee as foods that include any food altered from its natural state through processes including, but not limited to, heating, mixing, milling, canning, freezing, or adding ingredients, and list one of the following ingredients as the first ingredient:

- Sugar
- Cane sugar
- Corn syrup
- High fructose corn syrup

Single-ingredient sugars used for cooking and baking (such as granulated sugar or raw sugar) remain eligible for SNAP purchase.

**Beverages:**

Restricted soda & energy drinks are defined by Tennessee as beverages that list carbonated water and one of the following as the first two ingredients:

- Sugar
- Cane sugar
- Corn syrup
- High fructose corn syrup

Beverages that list aspartame or other low-or-non-caloric sweeteners as the first two ingredients remain eligible for SNAP purchase.

**Infant Formulas:**

Tennessee’s Food Restriction Waiver does not restrict or pertain to the purchase of infant formulas. Accordingly, all infant formulas remain eligible for SNAP purchase.