

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 273.10(f)(3)
4. **State:** Illinois
5. **Region:** MWRO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:**
The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in September, October, November, and December 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until March, April, May, and June 2021. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between September through December and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver
8. **Justification for request:** Extending active SNAP certification periods by six (6) months will be beneficial to administrative staff as well as customers.

Approval of this waiver will continue to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and avoid putting customer's health at risk by eliminating customers from completing SNAP redetermination applications, office visits, and scheduling interviews. Containing and reducing the transmission of COVID-19 continues to be a priority in Illinois and the United States.

In addition, administrative staff will be able to concentrate on initial SNAP applications as well as SNAP Redeterminations that were extended six (6) months from 3/2020 through 6/2020 and for cases that had periodic reports waived from 3/2020 through 6/2020 (numbers below). SNAP households in simplified reporting will continue to adhere to reporting requirements and change reporting households will continue to be required to report changes within ten (10) calendar days.

Category 1: SNAP MPR & Rede

Description	Count
How many cases were triggered for closure due to failure to return the MPR due 3/2/2020?	24,728
How many cases were triggered for closure due to rede not completed in March 2020?	35,655
How many cases have the MPR due on 4/2/2020?	49,789
How many cases have the redetermination due in April 2020?	57,287
How many cases have the MPR due on 5/2/2020?	47,139
How many cases have the redetermination due in May 2020?	70,925
How many cases have the MPR due on 6/2/2020?	32,702
How many cases have the redetermination due in June 2020?	67,694

Without this waiver, Illinois anticipates SNAP redeterminations for September, October, November and December will exceed the state's ability to process timely, due to the increased volume resulting from the previous months' extensions, putting families and individuals at risk of not receiving timely benefits in the Fall going into the holidays. In addition, the state experiences around a 40% church rate, putting additional pressures on customers and the state to prevent lengthy gaps in nutritional benefits.

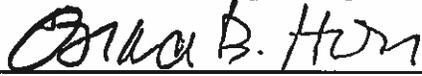
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Customers will continue receiving SNAP benefits without interruptions. Administratively, the certification extension will assist in timely application processing of initial applications.
10. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver will apply to all SNAP applicants and recipient households. Illinois's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 quality control error rate as of December 2019 sample month was 10.91%. The number of SNAP recipients as of March 2020 was 891,097 households.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** Immediately upon approval.
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this waiver. Cases

should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Handbook 310.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Leslie K. Cully

14. Signature and title of requesting official:


Name: Grace B. Hou ¹ 
Title: Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
Email for transmission of response:

15. Date of request: 07/22/2020

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Leslie K. Cully, Illinois SNAP
Director, leslie.k.cully@illinois.gov 217/785-3294

17. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):