



Eric Holcomb, Governor  
State of Indiana

*Division of Family Resources*  
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W392  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2747

April 3, 2020

Julie Mikkelson, Director  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
USDS, Food and Nutrition Service  
77 West Jackson Blvd 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Mikkelson:

Attached please find a new waiver request in response to the March 13, 2020, national declaration of emergency due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as well as the public health emergency declared in Indiana on March 6, 2020.

Indiana 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.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact David Smalley at [David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov](mailto:David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov) or (317) 232-2010.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

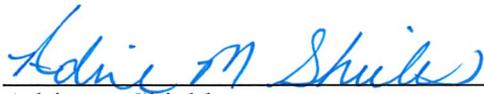
Adrienne Shields, Director  
FSSA/Division of Family Resources



## STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** New
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.5(b)(5)
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. **State:** Indiana
6. **Region:** Midwest Region
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and Federal regulation defines household members at least half-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 273.5(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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Indiana 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. The SA will re-evaluate for student eligibility at the next periodic report or eligibility review, after the pandemic has ceased.
9. **Justification for request:** On January 31, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern as well as Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States. The Governor of Indiana, Eric Holcomb, declared a public health emergency for the entire state of Indiana on March 6 2020, (Executive Order 20-02) to protect the well-being of the citizens of Indiana from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. In addition to the state-declared emergency, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national state of emergency over the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who are eligible for SNAP are impacted by the closing of businesses and are unable to work the required 20 hours a week of employment mandated in the regulation. The SA is requesting to waive the requirement that students work an average of 20 hours a week to maintain SNAP eligibility.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver seeks to allow SNAP benefits to continue for eligible students during this crisis. This will ensure students remain eligible during this time when they report a change in employment due to widespread business closures. We do not anticipate an increase in the number of eligible households, but rather maintaining eligibility for current recipients to continue receiving benefits during the time period that Indiana is under a state of emergency.

- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** The caseload of existing eligible students working an average of 20 hours a week, who are temporarily out of work because of COVID-19, will remain the same. The number of eligible students could increase, because of waiving the work requirement, however these students are not currently eligible, and therefore this amount is unknown.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** Indiana anticipates implementation of the waiver immediately upon approval to avoid lapse in eligibility for students that have been out of work.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** Cases will be reviewed in accordance with this waiver approval.
- 14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** Indiana FSSA/Division of Family Resources. State policy contacts: David Smalley and Suzanne Tryan.
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**



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Adrienne Shields  
Director, FSSA/Division of Family Resources  
Adrienne Shields@fssa.in.gov

- 16. Date of request:** April 3, 2020
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** David Smalley, David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov, (317) 232-2010
- 18. Regional office contact person:** Jenie Farinas, [Jenie.Farinas@usda.gov](mailto:Jenie.Farinas@usda.gov)