



Food and Nutrition  
Service

August 14, 2020

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

La Sherra Ayala  
Acting Executive Director  
Family Investment Administrative  
Department of Human Services  
311 W. Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3500

RE: SNAP – Maryland Adjustment to Postponed Expedited Interviews –  
Extension – Denial

Dear Ms. Ayala:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (COV-141) to continue to adjust the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirement for households to complete an interview prior to approval for expedited benefits during the month of September 2020.

FNS recognizes that the State is facing challenges in processing initial and ongoing cases for certification at this time due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, based on the data submitted by the State, FNS does not find that an extension of the adjustment is necessary to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in the State. FNS would like to work with the State agency on a transition plan that moves the State forward toward operations that are consistent with certification regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(3)(iii) and 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) and (B) immediately.

FNS guidance for States in response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>. Requests, approvals, and denials of waivers and adjustments related to COVID-19 will also be posted to this webpage.

Ms. Ayala  
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FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance and will consider future requests for adjustments if circumstances in the State change, such as a spike in new applications, and sufficient data is provided to support these flexibilities during the public health emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Director  
Program Development Division  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program