

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Initial
2. **Regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)
3. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:** 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)
3. **State:** Maryland
4. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic Region
5. **Regulatory requirements:**

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) provide that the State must certify eligible households for a definite period of time. Certification periods may not exceed 12 months except for households that are composed of all elderly or disabled members. These households may be certified for up to 36 months. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) provide that a household is enrolled in simplified reporting and required to report any changes on their recertification forms.

6. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:**

An extension of the certification period will be granted as needed to SNAP households residing in either a closed jurisdiction, such as Baltimore City where many of the State's SNAP recipients live or, a jurisdiction that has seen an influx of work on behalf of a closed county. The certification period will be extended beyond the currently scheduled expiration date. For all active SNAP households in a jurisdiction that is closed or one that has seen an influx of work on behalf of a closed county that has a recertification due, Maryland is requesting a delay in action for those cases in which processing difficulties are encountered. Staff will continue to make every effort to process the recertification forms by the certification period due date.

Maryland is requesting this waiver statewide to cover both jurisdictions that are not open for regular operations as well as those that remain open and take on additional work for the closed jurisdictions. The areas that remain open will continue to process their own recertifications due for action but will also be asked to complete additional work for other locals leading to potentially significant increases in workload. By extending the certification period when this workload increases, it ensures that SNAP households in all parts of the State continue to receive their benefits without interruption and a timely fashion. This waiver would be in place until all offices in Maryland are able to resume processing at which time normal procedures would be reinstated.

7. **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. The approval of this waiver extension would allow DHS to ensure households continue to receive their SNAP benefits during this health crisis.

8. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**

This waiver will prevent benefits from ending during this health crisis due to office closures or the inability of caseworkers to recertify the eligibility of ongoing SNAP households.

9. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:**

Maryland currently serves 330,622 SNAP households as of January 2020 and there are 95,514 SNAP households in Baltimore City, the first local area to be closed.

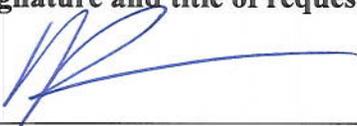
10. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**

We are requesting this waiver effective immediately until March 31, 2021.

11. **Proposed quality control review procedures:**

No special QC procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this waiver.

12. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Netsanet Kibret
Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Department of Human Services

13. **Date of request:** March 16, 2020