



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

April 30, 2020

Jacob Black
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Department of Human Services
200 South Lamar Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

RE: SNAP – Mississippi Request to Exclude Unemployment Benefits as Unearned Income and as a Resource Due to COVID-19 – Denial

Dear Mr. Black:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Mississippi Department of Human Services request to adjust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.9(b)(2) by excluding unearned income when determining eligibility and allotments, and at 7 CFR 273.9(c)(8) by excluding retroactive non-recurring lump sum payments as a resource in the month received.

As you may be aware, pursuant to section 2302(a)(2) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (P.L. 116-127), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may issue adjustments for SNAP flexibilities to States upon request. These adjustments are limited to issuance methods and application and reporting requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act. Therefore, FNS is denying the State's request.

The State may wish to consider requesting or using other adjustments that are allowable under the FFCRA. 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 for waivers and adjustments will also be posted to this webpage.

FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current 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