



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

April 10, 2020

Ms. Justine Welker  
Interim SNAP Program Manager  
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  
111 North Jackson Street  
Helena, Montana 59601

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Montana request to suspend claims collection action and delinquency determination due to COVID-19

Dear Ms. Welker:

This letter transmits approval of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) request to suspend collection action on SNAP overpayments and delinquency determination on households whose payment are affected by this suspension. DPHHS requested this temporary authority to alleviate administrative burden on the State and to alleviate financial hardship on households as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving this request through May 31, 2020, pursuant to 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i), which authorizes FNS to approve requested waivers of regulatory provisions that cannot be implemented due to extraordinary temporary situations.

FNS approves the State agency's request to temporarily suspend SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1), which require State agencies to begin collection on all claims unless it is not cost effective. FNS also approves the State agency's request to suspend delinquency determination regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which indicate a claim must be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date.

The State agency may temporarily suspend collection of active recoupment of overpayments and delay collection action on newly established overpayments. The State agency will not consider payments delayed due to this suspension to be delinquent. Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

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If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

4/10/2020

X Ronald K. Ward

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Ronald K. Ward

Director, Program Accountability and Administrati...

Signed by: Department of Agriculture