June 29, 2020

Karmela Martinez
Director, Income Support Division
Human Services Department
P.O Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

RE: SNAP – New Mexico Adjustment Request to Postpone Expedited Service
      Interview – Extension – Denial

Dear Ms. Martinez:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the New
Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) adjustment request (COV-147) 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 July 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) before July 1, 2020.

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.

FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance and will consider future requests
for adjustments in subsequent months 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
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program