



Food and Nutrition  
Service

August 28, 2020

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

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

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – New Mexico  
Adjustment Request for Core Verification and Interview Adjustment Due to  
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Denial

Dear Ms. Martinez:

This letter is in response the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) request to adjust SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14(b)(2) and (3), which require that State agencies develop an application to be used by households when applying for recertification and requires State agencies interview households as part of the recertification process.

FNS recognizes that the State is facing workload challenges at this time due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, based on the data submitted by the State, FNS is denying this request because the adjustment is not necessary to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in the State. FNS would like to work with the State agency in moving to operations that are consistent with SNAP regulations.

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, or the general workload increases, 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.

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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.

Sincerely,

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