



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 3, 2020

Lisa Cowell
Program Director
Family Assistance, SNAP/EBT Unit
Department of Human Services
James K. Polk Bldg, 15th Floor
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: SNAP – Tennessee Adjustment Request for Initial Certification and
Recertification Interviews – Extension – Denial

Dear Ms. Cowell:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (COV-121) to continue to adjust the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirement to conduct an interview at initial application and recertification for September 2020.

FNS recognizes that the State agency 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 agency, FNS does not find that an extension of this 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 it toward operations that are consistent with SNAP certification regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(a)(2), 273.2(e), and 273.14(b)(3).

FNS guidance for State agencies in response to COVID-19 is available at [FNS Responds to COVID-19 \(https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19\)](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 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.

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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