



Food and Nutrition  
Service

May 11, 2020

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

Babette Roberts  
Director, Community Services Division  
Economic Services Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services  
P.O. Box 45440  
Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: SNAP – Washington State Request to Modify Adjustment #COV-071 –  
Approval

Dear Ms. Roberts:

This letter transmits approval of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) request to modify Adjustment #COV-071 of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5), and of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B). FNS is approving the State agency's modification request to reflect implementation of the adjustment on April 1, 2020, rather than March 1, 2020, as the State did not request March 2020 in its original request. Additionally, FNS is approving the State agency's request to extend this approval through June 2020.

No other conditions of Adjustment #COV-071 will be modified under this approval. Under this modification, DSHS may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in April, May, and June 2020, for 6 months until October, November, and December 2020. DSHS may also adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas. The modified approval period is reflected in the attached enclosure.

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

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Program Development Division  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

Enclosure

**EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE**

- 1. Adjustment serial number:** COV-071
- 2. Type of request:** Modification
- 3. Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)
- 4. State:** Washington
- 5. Region:** Western
- 6. Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.  
  
SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.
- 7. Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in April, May, and June 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until October, November, and December 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between April through June 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.
- 8. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective April 1, 2020.

- 9. Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
- 10. Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
  - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
  - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
  - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
- 11. Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
  - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
  - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
  - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
  - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
- 12. Expiration date:** June 30, 2020.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
- 14. Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
- 15. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):**  
Upon receipt of approval