

WAIVER REQUEST

Student Eligibility

1. **Type of Request:** Initial
2. **Primary Citation:** Section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
3. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** 7 CFR 273.5 (b)(5)
4. **State:** Washington
5. **FNS Region:** WRO
6. **Act and Regulatory Requirements:** Section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and Federal regulation defines household members at least half-half time in an institution of higher education are not eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) unless they meet certain student exemptions.

7 CFR 273.5(b)(5) identifies the students enrolled in an institution of higher education may be eligible for SNAP if they meet the exemption of being employed a minimum of 20 hours per week.
7. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:** Washington State is requesting a waiver to allow students of higher education who are impacted due to COVID-19 to qualify for SNAP regardless of employment status. The SA will re-evaluate for student eligibility at the next periodic report or eligibility review, after the pandemic has ceased.
8. **Justification for Request:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency proclamation mandates closure of restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities across the state of Washington. Additionally, CDC recommendations to limit gatherings to ten people. Due to the evolving situation, the SA recognizes the need to do more to provide assistance to those impacted by COVID-19 related closures.

Students who are eligible for SNAP are impacted by the closing of businesses and are unable to work the required 20 hours a week of employment mandated in the regulation. The SA is requesting to waive the requirement that students work and average of 20 hours a week to maintain SNAP eligibility.
9. **Anticipated Impact on Households:** Maintaining SNAP benefits for eligible students during this crisis is crucial. The SA will ensure students remain eligible during this time when they report a change in employment due to widespread business closures. The SA does not anticipate an increase in the number of eligible households, but rather maintaining eligibility for current recipients.
10. **Affected Caseload:** The caseload of existing eligible students working an average of 20 hours a week, who are temporarily out of work because of COVID-19, will remain the same.

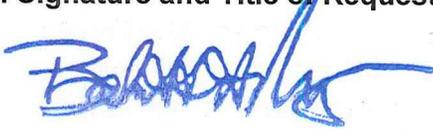
The number of eligible students could increase, because of waiving the work requirement, however these students are not currently eligible, and therefore this amount is unknown.

11. Anticipated Implementation Date: The SA anticipates implementation of the waiver immediately upon approval to avoid lapse in eligibility for students that have been out of work as of March 16, 2020 as a result of the Governor Inslee's proclamations for closure of various restaurants, bars, and facilities.

The SA will continue to work to provide correct training to staff in addition to working with Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to provide correct information to those impacted.

12. Proposed Quality Control Procedures: The proposal does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.

13. Signature and Title of Requesting Official:



Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division

14. Date of Request: March XX, 2020.