May 26, 2020

Rebecca McAtee
FoodShare Director
Bureau of Enrollment and Policy Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
One West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-0309

RE: SNAP – Wisconsin Request to Exempt All Applicants and Household Members from the General Work Requirements and Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Due to COVID-19 – Denial

Dear Ms. McAtee:

This letter transmits the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) denial of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) request to exempt all SNAP applicants and household members from the general SNAP work requirements at 7 CFR 273.7(a) and from the time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) at 7 CFR 273.24(b).

As you may be aware, pursuant to section 2302(a)(2) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (P.L. 116-127), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may issue adjustments for SNAP flexibilities to States upon request. These adjustments are limited to issuance methods and application and reporting requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act. FNS has determined that exempting all SNAP applicants and household members from the general SNAP work requirements and the ABAWD time limit would not be appropriate at this time.

The State may wish to consider requesting or using other adjustments that are allowable under the FFCRA. 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 for waivers and adjustments will also be posted to this webpage.
FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current Public Health Emergency. 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