



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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February 9, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Amendment** - Blanket Waiver to Allow Early Issuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits

**TO:** Regional SNAP Directors  
All Regions

On January 10, 2019, in order to ensure that SNAP households received benefits during the lapse in appropriations, FNS provided a blanket waiver to State Agencies, which allowed them to issue February benefits prior to January 20. The early February issuance created a longer period of time between SNAP benefit allotments compared to the usual 28 to 31 day cycle.

At this time, FNS is providing an amendment to the January 10, 2019, blanket waiver of 7 CFR 274.2(d) to allow States to mitigate the interval between February and March benefit issuances to the extent possible as detailed in the policy issued February 1, 2019.

This amendment allows States to mitigate the interval between issuances either by issuing a partial benefit as close to 40 days from the last issuance as possible, followed by issuance of the remaining benefit on the normal March issuance schedule, or by continuing to adjust the date that households receive their on-going SNAP benefit to on or after March 1, 2019, until the State's normal issuance schedule can again be implemented.

This amendment does not cover the *full* issuance of a March benefit in February; a plan to mitigate the interval between issuances in this manner requires an individual State waiver request detailing the State's plan to minimize associated over and under issuance risks.

Please let me know if you have questions regarding this waiver or its implementation; (703)305-2434 or [andrea.gold@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.gold@usda.gov).

Andrea Gold  
Director  
Retailer Policy and Management Division  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program