



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC070 New York City Only
Date:	July 02, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 July Certification Periods Extension
Effective Date:	Immediately
Attachments:	None
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance (TA) Questions – TA Bureau 518-474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise the New York City Department of Social Services (NYC DSS) that the certification periods for Temporary Assistance (TA)/Medicaid (MA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases with certification periods expiring at the end of July 2020 will be automatically extended for six months. Unlike GIS 20 TA/DC 0038 <https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC038.pdf>, which extended the certification periods for those cases with certification periods expiring at the end of June 2020 for six months across the State, this extension applies only to New York City cases. As with the previous mass extensions, cases with a pending transaction will not be extended automatically.

This extension is being granted because of the continuing impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the ability of households and the NYC DSS to complete the recertification process for these cases. Extending certification periods will ensure that households whose benefits would have expired at the end of July and who have been unable to comply with recertification requirements or whose recertifications could not be processed timely due to the effects of COVID-19 do not lose access to TA/MA and SNAP benefits. The extension also will provide one additional month of relief to the administrative burdens faced by NYC DSS as it adjusts to the operational impact of this pandemic.

Note: this guidance does not apply to MA only cases, including MA separate determinations for individuals who lose TA/MA eligibility. The Department of Health will issue separate guidance on Medicaid eligibility changes to address this public health emergency.

Please note that no further extensions of SNAP certification periods will be forthcoming.

As a reminder, as indicated in [GIS 20 TA/DC018](#), NYC DSS offices provide essential services and are exempt from the in-person work restrictions. NYC DSS must have staff available during core business hours to address and meet the needs of individuals and families who are applying for or receiving benefits and/or assistance through TA, SNAP, HEAP and Child Support services, regardless of any New York City mandates to close City government offices.

New York City WMS

NYC WMS will run mass extensions of certification for TA/MA/SNAP and SNAP-only cases that are due to expire at the end of July 2020. Cases with certification periods ending in July for which recertifications were processed or that were closed due to failure to recertify or for any other reason for which a closing action already had been taken, such as excess income, failure to provide required documentation; etc., are not eligible for an automatic extension. The mass extension will allow NYC DSS until January 31, 2021 to recertify any case that originally was scheduled to be recertified by July 31, 2020. Any household whose certification period has been extended must be allowed to recertify before the end of the extension period even if they did not attempt to do so before their previous certification period would have expired.

The extensions for cases due to expire in July 2020 will be processed by July 15, 2020.

Notices

Federal regulations do not require individual notice regarding the extension of the certification period when it is done as part of a mass change. NYC DSS should immediately post public notice in English and Spanish regarding the extension of certification periods. The posters must be displayed in certification offices, issuance locations, and other sites frequented by certified households until July 31, 2020 to ensure households are informed of the change.