



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	24DC028 Upstate and New York City
Date:	May 10, 2024
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Directors Temporary Assistance (TA) Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	SNAP Interview Adjustment Phaseout Waivers
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	SNAP Policy Bureau at (518) 473 -1469 or SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of a short-term extension to New York State’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) interview adjustment waiver. This waiver was originally implemented in response to the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), which ended May 11, 2023. The waiver was subsequently approved for an extension through the unwinding period of June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024, by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). In support of states’ efforts to phaseout the use of these waivers and return to normal SNAP operations, the interview adjustment waiver has been extended for the last time and will permanently expire on October 31, 2024.

Background

Title VI, Section 4603(a)(1)(B) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act (Public Law No. 116-159), the Continuing Resolution (CR), passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on October 1, 2020, reinstated the lapsed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) interview adjustment and waivers originally authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and waivers issued under 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i). The CR reinstated and extended the availability of these waivers through June 30, 2021. On April 30, 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) further extended the availability of these waivers until December 31, 2021, through issuance of a policy memo to all states, with certain limitations on the continuation of waivers when the state emergency or disaster declaration is no longer in effect. The waivers were again made available by USDA in a December 8, 2021, policy memo giving states the option to extend them beyond January 1, 2022, but no later than the end of the month subsequent to the month in which the public health emergency declaration related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

In preparation for the expiration of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, FNS made certain COVID “unwinding” waivers available to states to support effective and efficient program management during this period of readjustment to normal operations, including interview adjustment waivers for up to 12 months from the month that the federal PHE ended, as described in [GIS 23DC049](#).

As districts work toward a return to normal SNAP operations, USDA has approved a final extension, referred to as a “phaseout” of the interview adjustment waiver for certification and recertification interviews, through October 31, 2024.

Interview Adjustments

The SNAP interview adjustment waivers originally described in [GIS 20TA/DC026](#), which have been available to districts through May 31, 2024 will now expire effective October 31, 2024.

Until October 31, 2024, consistent with [GIS 23DC049](#) and previous guidance, districts are not prohibited from conducting interviews, they are just not required. Districts can apply the interview adjustment based on the month of application. For initial applications the interview adjustment may be used for any household that applies by October 31, 2024. For recertification applications, districts can use the interview adjustment for any household due for recertification, if the last month of the household’s current certification period is on or before October 31, 2024, and the recertification application is received by October 31, 2024.

Required Action

To utilize this waiver, districts must notify OTDA of their plan to implement the interview adjustment option and are required to submit a phaseout plan to the SNAP Bureau. This plan should describe how the waiver is currently being used (i.e., it should specify whether, or not, it is being used at initial application and/or recertification) and how the district plans to phaseout the waiver and return to regular interview requirements by its expiration date of October 31, 2024. The plan must include an approximation of the number or percentage of households that will be impacted during the waiver period, and any operational changes that will be made to allow for interviews to resume.

Districts must submit their plan via email to SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov (copying their SNAP liaison) no later than **June 15, 2024**.

In addition, at the conclusion of the waiver period, districts utilizing this waiver must provide an estimate of the number of households that were impacted each month for the duration of the waiver period. These estimates must be provided to OTDA no later than **November 29, 2024**. Districts must submit their final estimates via email to SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov (copying their SNAP liaison).

Please reach out to your OTDA SNAP Bureau liaison with any questions.