

ALERT DATE: April 9, 2020

This e-mail is being sent to professionals who are interested in receiving benefits updates regarding older adults and people with disabilities.

Hello! Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is allowing an "Adjustment" in requiring a SNAP household to be interviewed prior to the approval of benefits. The adjustment applies to all initial applications, including expedited, requiring an interview from March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.

For those who are not familiar with Expedited Service, the requirements are below:

- The SNAP unit's gross nonexempt income and liquid assets are less than their monthly rent or their mortgage payment and the appropriate utility standard; **or**
- The SNAP unit has liquid assets of \$100 or less and gross monthly income for the month of application is less than \$150; **or**
- The SNAP unit has liquid assets of \$100 or less and at least one person applying is a migrant who is "out of funds" (Person who moves from place to place doing or looking for seasonal work and is anticipating income of no more than \$25 in a 10-day period starting with the date of application)

Expedited SNAP benefits are available to eligible households no later than close of business on the 5th calendar day after their application date or the date it becomes known by the Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) that the household qualifies for expedited service.

Expedited Service

An interview is not required under the following conditions:

- Applicant qualifies for expedited service
- Identity is verified
- Mandatory verifications needed to establish eligibility are provided/verified

A household whose identity can't be verified or mandatory verifications to establish eligibility have not been provided/verified, does not qualify for the adjustment and must be processed under normal SNAP application processing procedures which includes an interview.

Non-expedited Households

An interview is not required at initial application under the following conditions:

- Applicant's identity is verified
- Mandatory verifications needed to establish eligibility are provided/verified

A household whose identity can't be verified or mandatory verifications to establish eligibility have not been provided/verified, does not qualify for the adjustment and must be interviewed.

In order to protect the safety of the customer and FCRC staff, all interviews will be conducted by telephone. Face-to-face interviews will not be available.

Note- If any of the information on the application is questionable and cannot be verified, a Verification Checklist (VCL) will be sent to the household requesting needed verification(s).

Please go to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123577> if you would like more information about the "Adjustment".