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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GOVERNOR

June 2, 2020

Mr. Charles Tobin, Regional Program Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Regional Office
Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER REQUEST

Dear Mr. Tobin:

As you know, the State of California (the State) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) are working to respond swiftly and effectively to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic emergency and to ensure that Californians can continue to access SNAP benefits (known in California as CalFresh). The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a steep rise in California's unemployment rate, with millions of workers filing unemployment claims. Although Congress has suspended the ABAWD time limit as a part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act until the nationwide public health emergency declaration is lifted, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to California's workforce will be longlasting.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please find, attached, a request to amend California's current ABAWD time limit waiver which is set to expire September 1, 2020. The request is on the basis that the State qualifies for Extended Benefits under the Unemployment Insurance program. The CDSS requests that this waiver be effective beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

We appreciate FNS' consideration of California's request and appreciate a prompt response so that we may issue necessary guidance and implement changes to our business processes and operating procedures. In addition, to expedite the review and decision process for CDSS' request, we are available for a conference call at your earliest convenience to discuss our request.

Sincerely,

Alexis Fernández
Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch