



March 16, 2020

Julie Mikkelsen, SNAP Director
USDA Food and Nutrition Services
77 West Jackson Street, 20th Floor
Chicago, IL

Dear Ms. Mikkelsen:

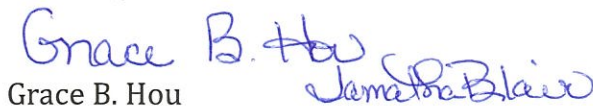
Illinois is devising strategies to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). One of the strategies is to request a waiver under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver request is to exempt our ABAWD population statewide from SNAP time limits of 7 CFR 273.24 as amended by the Food and Nutrition Services Final Rule (84 FR 66782), to be effective April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

Illinois believes that exempting able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP time limits may aid in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Some ABAWDs may request an exemption based on prolonged illness of COVID-19 and/or be caring for a SNAP household member being treated for COVID-19. Others may be granted good cause for not meeting work requirements due to circumstances beyond their control.

In addition, there will be ABAWDs that may be unable to look for work, continue to work, or continue meeting work requirements due to closures of businesses, day cares, universities, nursing homes, senior centers, churches, etc.

Attached please find documentation to support our request. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Cully at leslie.cully@illinois.gov. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Grace B. Hou
Secretary

Cc: Leslie Cully
Terri Vaniter