



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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May 11, 2026

Eugene Malveaux
Regional Director, Southeast Region Food
and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
61 Forsyth Street SW
Suite 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Dear Director Malveaux,

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) acknowledges the approval by United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) on December 10, 2025, regarding TDHS' novel demonstration project amending the statutory definition of food for purchase by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients. This statewide demonstration project, effective July 31, 2026, excludes from the definition of eligible SNAP foods the following items:

- 1) "Processed foods" that list sugar, cane sugar, corn syrup, or high fructose corn syrup as the first ingredient, excluding granulated sugar, raw sugar, and other single ingredient sugars used for cooking and baking. "Processed foods" are foods that include any food altered from its natural state through processes including, but not limited to, heating, mixing, milling, canning, freezing, or adding ingredients.
- 2) Beverages that list carbonated water and sugar, cane sugar, corn syrup, and high fructose corn syrup as the first two ingredients. Beverages that list aspartame or other low-or-non-caloric sweeteners as the first two ingredients remain eligible for purchase.
- 3) This pilot project does not pertain to the purchase of infant formula. Accordingly, all infant formula remains eligible for purchase with a SNAP EBT card.

This letter serves as the Department's **modification** of the demonstration project approval issued by USDA FNS, including all the terms and conditions.

We appreciate your support and continued partnership. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact TDHS' Healthy SNAP demonstration project point-of-contact Kieyana Carter, Program Director for EBT within the Division of Family Assistance & Child Support, by phone at (615) 290-4488 or by email at Kieyana.Carter@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Leanna Johnston

Leanna Johnston
State Director, SNAP & EBT
Division of Family Assistance & Child Support