



**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

**Eric Friedlander**  
SECRETARY

275 East Main Street, 3W-A  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621  
Phone: 502-564-3703  
Fax: 502-564-6907

**Lesa Dennis**  
COMMISSIONER

Nov. 28, 2023

Jay D. Hartz, Director  
Legislative Research Commission  
Capitol Annex, Room 183  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Hartz:

KRS 205.525 requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (cabinet) to provide to the Health Services Committee and the Appropriations and Revenue Committee a copy, summary, and statement of benefits for any waiver request made to the federal government concurrent with the federal submittal.

The Department for Community Based Services (department) is submitting two federal waiver requests related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides low-income households assistance in purchasing food.

The first waiver request is to extend SNAP recertification periods for cases due for renewal or report from Dec. 2023 through May 2024. Kentucky utilizes an integrated eligibility system which includes SNAP, Medicaid, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). After the pandemic, the department experienced difficulty in filling field staff vacancies. The department has had great success recently in filling these vacancies and working toward the challenge of getting new staff trained. To address the training needs, changes were made to the training plan to allow new staff to be trained in both SNAP and Medicaid at the same time. DCBS currently has 1,378 field staff. Of those, 569 are currently fully trained in only one program and 404 staff are in training and non-case decision, which means all case actions require review by senior staff before being fully processed. The staffing realities combined with the 40% increase in workload brought about with beginning of the public health emergency unwinding period and return of Medicaid renewals has resulted in a backlog of processing tasks. This backlog has been noted in multiple legislative committee and task force meetings. This temporary recertification period extension will allow the department to catch up on the backlog of cases to be processed.

The second waiver request is to temporarily waive the time limit requirements (3 months limit) that able-bodied adults without dependents have to receive SNAP in 98 specific counties. 7 CFR 273.24 allows a time limit extension in areas with an insufficient number of jobs in a 24-month period of time. From September 2021 to August 2023, the national average unemployment rate was 3.7%. 20% above this would be 4.5% and 98 Kentucky counties were deemed to have unemployment rates above this value, resulting in individuals who reside there being eligible for this exemption. This will allow abled-bodied adults without dependents to continue to receive assistance with purchasing food beyond the typically allowed three months. This waiver will be in place for one year.

Let me know if you have any questions related to these waiver requests.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
2597068C24204CA...

Lesla Dennis  
Commissioner