



Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
57 Howard Avenue, Louis Pasteur Building, Cranston, RI 02920

December 29, 2017

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Northeast Region  
10 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02222

**RE: Extension Request for Waiver No. 2170017, Postpone Expedited Service Interview**

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

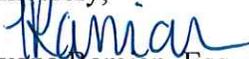
The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (RI DHS) respectfully requests a twelve-month extension of Waiver Number 2170017 – Request to Postpone Expedited Service Interview. This request waives the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(3)(iii) and 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) and (B) which require an interview prior to the approval of expedited SNAP benefits.

RI DHS has had much success in processing expedited service SNAP applications under this waiver for the last 9 months. The waiver has allowed for increased access to food assistance to some of the most vulnerable of applicants, and has streamlined the processing of expedited SNAP applications, allowing the state agency to catch up on application processing and eliminate the SNAP application backlog. SNAP benefits for households, that meet the expedited criteria and whose identity can be verified, would be approved for 1 or 2 months of benefits without an interview (depending on date of application), when RI DHS has attempted but has not been able to contact the applicant. To receive ongoing benefits, the households would have to complete the interview, provide necessary verification, and have their applications processed prior to the end of the month of application or by the end of the month following application.

Please be advised that RI DHS is working closely with our integrated eligibility system vendor to provide the data reporting components as found in the detailed original waiver response received on March 24, 2017. As soon as the data is extracted, it will be forwarded to you.

Thank you for your consideration. Your expeditious processing of this request is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-415-8433 or by e-mail at [Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Iwona Ramian, Esq.  
SNAP Administrator

cc: Courtney Hawkins, Director, RI DHS  
Kimberly Brito, Deputy Director, RI DHS  
Maureen Donnelly, Associate Director for Operations, RI DHS  
Matthew Henschel, Policy Team Lead, USDA, FNS  
Maria Volpe, RI State Desk, USDA, FNS

*Enclosure*