

# SNAP Healthy Food Choice Demonstration Waiver Request Template



United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

## SNAP HEALTHY FOOD CHOICE STATE DEMONSTRATION REQUEST

Section 17(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (the Act), allows FNS to waive statutory requirements of the Act to conduct pilot projects designed to test program changes to increase the efficiency of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and improve the delivery of SNAP benefits to eligible households. The Act limits the provisions that may be waived. Projects may be approved for a period of 5 years and the Act requires that each project must include an evaluation component that demonstrates the effects of the project.

This template intends to guide and assist States in submitting a SNAP Healthy Food Choice Demonstration Project Request. States should follow the guided prompts and questions and offer any additional detail, if applicable, under each section to ensure a complete understanding of the State's proposed project.

States should review the impermissible projects prohibited by Section 17 (b)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act and additional restrictions on demonstration projects in the appendix below before requesting a SNAP Healthy Food Choice demonstration project. Additionally, to facilitate the demonstration review process, FNS strongly suggests States inform their Regional Office to discuss the project and provide any necessary technical assistance prior to submission of a request. The FNS National Office SNAP Healthy Choice team is also open to join Regional or State Agency calls to provide technical assistance.

SNAP Healthy Food Choice demonstration projects are intended to test innovative ideas that develop and implement modernized programmatic systems, infuse SNAP with new programmatic energy and vision, and strengthen State strategies to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families. FNS looks forward to working with States on potential changes to program operations that align with the Secretary's vision for nutrition assistance programs.

FNS reserves the right to withdraw its waiver approval and terminate demonstration projects at any time if FNS determines that the project is inconsistent with SNAP goals to increase the efficiency of the program and to improve the delivery of SNAP benefits to raise levels of nutrition among low-income individuals. If the State is unable to provide the data required as part of the terms and conditions of waiver approval or if FNS determines that the project is associated with significant increases in payment errors or access concerns, **FNS may suspend or terminate the project at any time.**

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**Type of Request: SNAP HEALTHY FOOD CHOICE**

**Date of Request: 10/10/2025**

**State: HI**

**Region: WRO**

### **Statutory Citations:**

*Provide the statutory citations from the [Act](#) the State seeks to waive. FNS will work with the State to identify any additional statutory waivers needed for the proposed demonstration project.*

**7 USC Ch. 51 §2012 (k)**

### **Regulatory Citations:**

*Provide the regulatory citations from [7 CFR](#) the State seeks to waive. FNS will work with the State to identify any additional regulatory waivers needed for the proposed demonstration project.*

**7 CFR 271.2**

### **Summary of Healthy Food Choice Demonstration Project Request:**

*Explain in a few words the goal of the project and its intended outcomes. (250 words)*

Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 2012(k), recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are authorized to purchase any food or food product for home consumption, as well as seeds and plants intended for food production. Certain eligible populations may also utilize SNAP benefits to procure prepared meals from designated facilities, including senior centers, domestic violence shelters, substance misuse treatment centers, and homeless shelters. Federal regulations prohibit the use of SNAP benefits to acquire alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and hot foods or hot food products prepared for immediate consumption, except as permitted under specific provisions.

The State of Hawaii proposes an alternative procedure to impose additional purchase restrictions on certain food items within the SNAP program. Specifically, Hawaii seeks to prohibit the use of SNAP benefits to purchase soft drinks, as defined in the next section. These restrictions would supplement existing federal limitations established under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The proposed modification is intended to align SNAP benefit usage with public health objectives, promoting nutritional well-being and reducing the consumption of high-sugar beverages that contribute to diet-related health concerns. By restricting the purchase of soft drinks, the State of Hawaii seeks to enhance the program's effectiveness in supporting food security while encouraging the consumption of healthier alternatives. This policy proposal is informed by state executive-level determinations on dietary standards and public health priorities.

### **Proposed Alternative Procedures to Operate Project:**

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*Provide a detailed explanation of the proposed Healthy Food Choice demonstration project, and how the State intends to operate the food choice project that differs from how SNAP currently operates.*

### ***SNAP-Eligible Food and Food Products Amended by the Healthy Food Choice Demonstration Waiver***

- *Describe the food(s) of interest that will be restricted under this demonstration waiver. What are the desired outcomes of limiting these food(s)?*
- *If applicable, describe incentivization projects to entice SNAP-eligible households to increase purchasing of fruits and/or vegetables.*

Hawaii currently operates its SNAP program following allowable food purchases in statute at 7 USC Ch. 51 §2012 (k) and definitions at 7 CFR 271.2, without any current waivers. Under the proposed demonstration project, Hawaii is seeking to limit the purchase of soft drinks as defined below:

- **Soft drinks:** meaning a nonalcoholic beverage that is made with carbonated water and is sweetened with more than 10 grams of sugar per serving. "Soft drink" does not include a beverage that contains milk, milk products, soy, rice, or other milk substitutes, or that is greater than 50% vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

This initiative would expand restrictions at the state level beyond the existing federal unallowable purchases outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and leverage retailer systems to ensure compliance through UPC-based filtering. The goal of this demonstration project is to encourage healthier purchasing patterns among SNAP recipients with consistency among retailers utilizing existing point-of-sale systems.

### **SNAP-Eligible Household Considerations:**

*Please complete the next section with possible impacts and considerations to SNAP-eligible households.*

#### ***Participating households and individuals***

- *Describe the target population included in this waiver.*
  - *Will the State limit the project to households that meet certain requirements? For example, targeting households of a certain size, households with individuals participating in SNAP-Ed, households with individuals participating in WIC, households receiving medical assistance, or households with pregnant women and/or young children?*
- *Describe the pilot approach for households.*
  - *Will all households be participating at once?*
  - *Will there be a phased in approach based on certain household factors?*
    - *If yes, describe the household types and phase in approach below.*

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The proposed initiative will be implemented on a statewide basis and will apply to all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients purchasing food, and all SNAP-approved retail locations within the State of Hawaii, no later than August 1, 2026. This strategic rollout will provide consistency in enforcement, minimize customer confusion, and facilitate a seamless transition for both recipients and retailers. The State of Hawaii will collaborate with authorized retailers and stakeholders to integrate the restrictions effectively while maintaining compliance with existing program regulations.

### **SNAP-Authorized Retailers Considerations:**

*Please complete the next section with possible impacts and considerations to SNAP-authorized retailers.*

#### ***SNAP-Authorized Retailers Participating in the Healthy Food Choice Demonstration Waiver***

- *List the retailers participating in this pilot. Include brick-and-mortar stores, participating retailers' online platforms (e.g., Amazon.com, Walmart.com), and specialty retailer types (e.g., farmers' markets, direct marketing farmers, etc.). Write "all" if all retailers in the state will be subject to the pilot.*
- *Explain how the participating retailers were selected.*
- *Will retailer participation in the pilot be phased in? If yes, what does that plan look like?*

Hawaii intends for all authorized SNAP retailers across the state to participate in the implementation of this initiative no later than August 1, 2026. This will include retail chains, large- and medium-sized retailers, convenience stores, wholesale suppliers and smaller locally owned businesses.

Prior to developing a retailer implementation plan, Hawaii plans to initiate early and sustained engagement with retailers of all sizes to form an ad hoc committee to gather input, identify potential barriers, and ensure the implementation process is collaborative and practical. Hawaii will be communicating with the state's retailer associations to begin identifying key stakeholders that need to be at the table and are representative of the full range of retail environments, including large chains, medium-sized stores, small businesses, convenience stores, and mom and pop retailers. This group will help inform the project throughout the planning and implementation phases. This group will provide critical information to help us identify retailer challenges and solutions for implementation, develop effective messaging for use with customers and store employees at point-of-sale, communicate any project rollout challenges and develop frequently asked questions and talking points for retail staff and key stakeholders.

The Department also will work with this group to identify strategies to assist retailers in developing consistent product restrictions and update programming to restrict purchases using UPC product codes.

#### ***Consideration of retailer size***

- *Provide the State's plan to adjust implementation time based on retailer size and system capabilities, if applicable.*

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Utilizing the ad hoc committee, Hawaii will work with retailers of all sizes to develop strategies that best fit retailers. Recognizing a one-size model doesn't fit the different types of retailers, the Department will collaborate with other states to identify approaches being used that can be adapted for use in Hawaii.

### ***Retailer-Level System Changes***

*Describe any retailer-level system changes and/or updates the retailer(s) will incur in the operation of this demonstration project, for example:*

- *Describe how the retailer systems will be able to support all alternative procedures required of the project, or will it require an upgrade or enhancements?*
- *Describe any exemptions for retailers that are unable to make the necessary system changes.*

Hawaii is still in the discovery phase of determining retailer-level impacts and system changes and will work closely with the retail community. Hawaii will provide information designed to help guide retailers in the development and implementation of a system that restricts the purchase of certain soft drinks that meets the state's definition. The goal is for all state retailers to implement consistent application of restrictions across the state, while allowing flexibility in how retailers integrate the solution into its point-of-sale systems.

Hawaii will provide initial and ongoing information by providing clear definitions of what is allowed and not allowed, empowering retailers to flag and escalate discrepancies when identified. For example, when an unapproved item is processed, or a restricted item appears to be mistakenly excluded. This level of collaboration will ensure retailers are active partners in both the implementation and ongoing refinement of the project. The cost and technical requirements for uploading and integrating these exclusions into retail systems will be borne by the retailers.

Working with the ad hoc committee, Hawaii will serve as the liaison to help identify opportunities to leverage existing technology used across the state to identify cost effective approaches to implementing new food restrictions. Based on input from the retailer community, exemptions for retailers may be granted based on criteria yet to be defined by the state. This flexible and cooperative approach is designed to ensure statewide consistency while recognizing the diverse operational realities of Hawaii's retail landscape. It also reinforces Hawaii's commitment to working together with our retail partners to promote healthier purchasing behaviors with SNAP benefits.

### **Impacts to the State Agency:**

*Please complete the next section with possible impacts to the State agency.*

### ***State-Level System Changes***

*Describe any State-level system changes and/or updates the State will incur in the operation of this demonstration project, for example:*

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- *If applicable, describe how the State system will be able to support all alternative procedures required of the project, or will it require any upgrade or enhancements?*
- *If your state operates Summer EBT, will it also be subject to these restrictions or will EBT system changes be required to ensure no impact to that program?*

Hawaii does not anticipate any state-level system changes as part of this demonstration. The proposed item exclusions are designed to be implemented solely through retailer systems at the point-of-sale. The changes would be operationalized on the retailer side of the EBT transaction process, using UPC-based restrictions, and would not require modifications to Hawaii's state eligibility or benefit issuance systems.

### ***Healthy Food Purchases Compliance Plans***

- *Describe the State's plans for enforcing compliance with the pilot among SNAP-authorized retailers in the targeted geographical location (e.g., county-wide, regional, statewide).*
  - *How will the State work with retailers to ensure compliance?*
  - *Once implemented, how will the State confirm restrictions have been implemented at the retailer level?*
  - *How will retailers be held responsible if their equipment is not updated and clients are able to make ineligible purchases?*
  - *How will retailers authorized after project launch be notified of the pilot parameters?*

Hawaii, like other states requesting healthy food choice waivers, does not have regulatory authority to approve, sanction or monitor retailers for compliance with federal program regulations. Before developing its compliance plan, Hawaii will seek input from retailers to identify the challenges and barriers in identifying restricted products meeting the state's definition of soft drinks.

A compliance strategy would include the development and implementation of a self-attestation program for retailers to affirm their compliance with the restriction. Other potential compliance strategies such as using secret shoppers to observe in-store compliance discreetly or developing a monitoring program to review the percentage of participating retailers annually are options being considered and would involve FNS coordination.

Hawaii is committed to effective implementation and stakeholder collaboration. We plan to continue engagement and information sharing with retailers throughout the demonstration period. Strategies may include:

- The launch and updating of a dedicated website where retailers can access up-to-date information, training materials, FAQs, and approved/restricted item lists.
- A retailer email listserv to distribute real-time updates, key implementation milestones, and technical guidance.
- Ongoing stakeholder meetings with retailers of all sizes to address questions, gather feedback, and ensure broad representation and engagement.

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### ***Staff Capacity and Training***

- *Describe the State's staffing capacity to administer the project and the policy training plan on the alternative procedures required by the project.*
  - *Will the State designate a specific team for the project? If so, please describe it.*

Hawaii plans to use existing staff resources from the SNAP program, Department-level communications team, and agency and executive-level leadership to support planning, outreach and implementation activities for the demonstration. The SNAP program will lead efforts to working with retailers and key stakeholders. The Department's communication teams will develop messaging and materials that will be used by all stakeholders to deliver consistent messaging about changes to allowable product purchases. The SNAP and EBT administrative team, along with the agency's contracted call center operations, will help answer retailer and customer questions and complaints. Department and executive-level leadership will work with elected officials to provide updates on the demonstration, including challenges and successes identified as the program is implemented.

### **Communication Plan:**

*States must develop a strategic roll out plan for communicating this project to impacted populations for FNS approval. FNS expects ongoing and frequent outreach to SNAP-eligible individuals and retailers throughout the planning process and implementation phase of this project. We also encourage outreach to relevant stakeholder groups and local media to raise awareness of the impending program changes.*

- *Describe the anticipated timeframe and details of the State's plan, including any training and communication, to reach the target SNAP population for the project.*
  - *Also describe how communication and training will be provided to SNAP households that become eligible after the project launch.*
- *If applicable, describe any nutrition education (ex- SNAP-ed) provided, or planned to be provided, to SNAP-eligible households.*
- *Describe the anticipated timeframe and details of the State's outreach plan, including any training and communication, to reach the participating retailers for the project.*
  - *Also describe how communication and training will be conducted with newly authorized retailers over the course of the demonstration project.*

Hawaii will develop a preliminary communications plan to support both customer and partner awareness as part of the proposed demonstration. The plan is designed to ensure that SNAP participants, retailers and agency staff all receive clear, consistent, and timely information about the changes.

Key components of the communications strategy include:

- Customer communication materials, such as press releases, social media and Department web site postings, and individual customer notices with simple and clear messaging to support understanding of the new restrictions.

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- Staff training for agency employees, particularly those conducting SNAP interviews or handling customer interactions, to ensure they are prepared to explain the changes and answer questions accurately and confidently.
- Retailer-facing resources available through a dedicated website page and regular electronic updates that may include signage templates, informational posters and FAQs to support communication at the point of sale.
- Dedicated website page to support both retailers and customers throughout the demonstration.

This multi-channel approach ensures that customers are not surprised at checkout, retail staff are not burdened with unexpected questions, and all partners are equipped to deliver consistent, accessible messaging statewide.

### **Timeline:**

- *Provide an overall timeline of expected timeframes and end dates for specific tasks required to achieve project outcomes. This may be presented as a chart or other format (e.g., Gant Chart, Visio). At a minimum, the timeline should include:*
  - *SNAP target population and household communication plans;*
  - *Retailer communication plans;*
  - *Retailer readiness target date(s);*
  - *Go-live implementation, including phases if applicable.*

Proposed Implementation Timeline for Hawaii's SNAP Demonstration is based on a 9-month implementation period. This timeline may change based on information gathered during the engagement and discovery phase.

- Target Approval Date: November 1, 2025
  - Hawaii anticipates receiving federal approval for the demonstration by this date.
- Engagement and Discovery Phase Begins: November 2025 - January 2026
  - Partnership meetings with retailers and key stakeholders
  - Identify existing data sources for evaluation and reporting
  - Collaboration with FNS to develop strategies for creating compliance plans
  - Research and review identified strategies developed by other state agencies
  - Complete retailer/customer/ website page
- Project Development and Pilot Phase Begins: February-June 2026
  - Finalize project implementation plan
  - Retailers begin developing UPC restriction list
  - Create communication materials for retailers, customers and staff
  - Create staff training and materials for communicating with customers
  - Expand website to include customer/public information
  - Identify data sources for evaluating project
- Pre-Implementation Period: June-July 2026
  - Send customer notices
  - Go live Hawaii retailer and customer website page
  - Distribute retailer materials

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- Staff training
- Implementation Period: August 2026
  - Go live product restrictions
- Ongoing Support and Monitoring: August 2026 forward
  - Continued communication with retailers and stakeholders
  - Develop compliance strategies
  - Create and implement evaluation plan
  - Develop reporting timelines and submit required federal reports

### **Justification for Request:**

*Explain how the demonstration project will benefit the administration of SNAP in the State and improve the delivery of SNAP benefits to eligible households. Use the space below to describe how implementing this demonstration project will achieve the intended objectives, for example:*

- *Describe how the project will impact administrative burden.*
- *Describe how the project will strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy SNAP families.*

The Declaration of Policy, which prefaces the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (P.L. 88-525, as amended via P.L. 118-5), emphasizes the health and well-being of the Nation, as well as a nutritious diet. Supporting the health of the residents of Hawaii is of paramount importance. The proposed package of changes in this waiver request ensures that SNAP dollars are not being spent on soft drinks that have no or negative nutritional value and that SNAP participants can instead spend those SNAP dollars on foods that provide meaningful nutritional support. This expands not only the positive nutritional and health impact of SNAP benefit spending but also enhances the impact of the purchasing power of a household's SNAP benefits.

By excluding specific items, such as soft drinks, this demonstration would help ensure that SNAP dollars are used for food items that contribute to, rather than harm, a family's health. These restrictions are not intended to be punitive; rather, they are a public health strategy intended to support informed, healthy purchasing choices for all participants.

This demonstration is being designed to impact 100% of Hawaii's SNAP population, offering a consistent, statewide approach that guides SNAP funds toward more nutritious options and helps reduce the purchase of foods associated with chronic disease. Hawaii believes this initiative would strengthen the program's mission and reinforce the state's responsibility to use public resources in a way that promotes the long-term health and self-sufficiency of its residents.

### **Proposed Evaluation Procedures:**

*Demonstration projects must include an evaluation component to determine the project's effects. FNS will require quarterly evaluation reports during the first year of implementation. Thereafter, States will be required to report on an annual basis.*

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Use the space below to describe how the State plans to evaluate the demonstration project and measure the intended outcomes and benefits, for example:

- Describe what data will be collected as part of this project.
  - FNS strongly encourages the State to collect data on food and beverage purchase consumption and health outcomes by interviewing recipients and collecting qualitative data on food purchasing habits and non-SNAP spending either through a collection of food purchase receipts or a 24-hour dietary recall.

### **SNAP-Eligible Individuals**

- Describe how the State will evaluate the impact of this project on program administration and program access.
- Describe how the State will measure client satisfaction.

Hawaii will conduct program evaluations by using current SNAP-Education Implementing Agencies (IA). The IAs will interview SNAP recipients and conduct surveys on food purchasing habits using SNAP benefits and non-SNAP methods.

- SNAP participants' surveys, at a minimum, will collect the following information:
  - Meals and foods eaten outside the home or with foods not purchased at SNAP-authorized retailers.
  - Purchase and/or consumption of less healthy or "unhealthy" food items not restricted by the Project.
  - Non-SNAP dollars spent to purchase food items restricted by the Project.
  - SNAP client's ability and confidence in correctly identifying food items that can or cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits during the Project.
  - The point in time in which the SNAP client became aware of the Project and how (State SNAP webpage, retail store signage, State press release, etc.).
  - Any impact the Project potentially had on participants' shopping routines (such as distance traveled to store, increase spending of non-SNAP dollars, more frequent shopping trips, etc.).

### **SNAP-Authorized Retailers**

- Describe how the State will evaluate the impact of this project on program administration and program access as it relates to retailers.
- Describe how the State will measure retailer satisfaction.

Hawaii will collaborate with FNS and state retailers to obtain available EBT redemption data to identify SNAP purchasing behaviors prior to implementation of the healthy food choice waiver and at intervals throughout the demonstration project. Data elements may include the following information:

- Establishing baseline data collection prior to the demonstration implementation.
- Regular analysis of transaction data following implementation to monitor:
  - In-state vs. out-of-state SNAP usage,
  - Shifts in redemption trends related to excluded items,

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- Changes in where and how SNAP benefits are spent,
- Potential retailer or customer adaptations in response to the restricted items policy.

This structured data collection will help Hawaii measure the direct impacts of the demonstration over time and assess whether the intended outcomes, such as healthier purchasing decisions, are effective. Findings will also inform adjustments and future recommendations for scaling or refining the approach.

### ***Redemption and Transaction Data***

- *Describe how the State will track and evaluate out-of-state transactions in bordering states.*

Hawaii is an island state that does not have any states near its borders. Hawaii will need to rely on EBT transaction data to evaluate out-of-state transactions.

- *FNS will require the following additional data be provided:*
  - *Client complaints about the pilot project;*
  - *Retailer complaints about the pilot project;*
  - *Any additional feedback on the pilot project provided by key stakeholders (e.g., grocer associations or community-based organizations); and*
  - *Out of state transaction data to determine cross-border shopping transactions.*

Hawaii maintains a structured process for receiving and addressing customer complaints through a centralized call center and incident reporting system. This escalation path will be modified to accept complaints about retailers and from retailers. As part of the communications and outreach efforts, Hawaii will publicize how customers, retailers and the public can contact the SNAP program with complaints, questions, and feedback related to the demonstration. This existing pathway allows for program transparency, promote two-way dialogue, and ensure that stakeholders and the public have a clear and accessible method for sharing their experiences and concerns throughout the duration of the demonstration.

### **Anticipated Implementation Date:**

*Provide the anticipated implementation date. FNS will provide technical assistance, as it relates to this waiver, to help the State reach the goal implementation date.*

*Note: States should submit a demonstration request at least six months before their anticipated implementation date.*

At this time, Hawaii is anticipating implementation of the demonstration that will begin August 2026 with all retailers in compliance statewide. This implementation timeline is based on a November 1, 2025, approval date. As we gather information from key stakeholders, the timeline for implementation may be adjusted based on timelines for retailers to get systems in place and operationalize restrictions for soft drinks.

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### **Anticipated Program Costs:**

*Use the space below to describe what additional expenses will be incurred to implement this pilot project. This could reflect costs associated with notifying clients and retailers, EBT system changes, evaluation contract support, or other items not listed here.*

Hawaii plans to utilize existing resources and staffing to absorb the costs for this demonstration.

### **Anticipated Expiration Date:**

July 31, 2028.

### **Signature of requesting official:**



### **State Contact**

Name: Scott Nakasone, Assistant Division Administrator

Email: [snakasone2@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:snakasone2@dhs.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: 808-586-7054

### **Regional Office Contact:**

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

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## Appendix

### Impermissible Projects

Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act explicitly prohibits waivers of certain provisions of the Act. FNS is unable to approve projects that involve a waiver of these provisions.

### Impermissible eligibility criteria waivers

Healthy Food Choice demonstration projects may not:

- Change the definition of household for those living in Federally subsidized housing for older adults, group living arrangements, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, and drug and alcohol treatment centers), institutions, or boarding houses (Sec. 3(m)(4) and (5));
- Change the gross income standards of eligibility for households that do not have an elderly or disabled member to a level other than 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (Sec. 5(c)(2));
- Change the work requirements exemption for parents or household members caring for with dependent children under the age of 6 or caring for an incapacitated person (Sec. 6(d)(2)(B));
- Increase the shelter deduction for households with low or no out-of-pocket housing costs; or
- Deny benefits to an otherwise eligible individual or household (last sentence of Sec. 5(a)).

### Impermissible State operations waivers

Healthy Food Choice demonstration projects may not:

- Waive the requirements (Sec. 11(e)(2)(B)) for States to:
  - Provide timely, accurate and fair service to SNAP applicants and participants;
  - Develop a SNAP application; and if the State has a website, make the application available on their website in every language a printed application is available;
  - Allow a household to apply on the same day they first contact a SNAP office during office hours;
  - Consider an application with only name, address, and signature to be filed on the date of application;
  - Require an adult representative to certify that the information on the application is true and that all members are citizens or eligible aliens;
  - Provide a method of certifying and issuing benefits to homeless households; or
  - Determine applicant eligibility within 30 days of the date of the filing of an application (time standard in Sec. 11(e)(3)).
- Change the provisions outlining which parts of the Act are not allowed to be waived;
- Absolve a State from acting with reasonable promptness on substantial reported changes in income or household size;

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- Prohibit States from operating a Workfare Program or change the 50/50 matching provisions for workfare activities, including reimbursements for participants in workfare activities;
- Waive provisions of the Simplified SNAP (an optional program for TANF households);
- Waive the State Option to issue benefits to individuals who are not compliant with the work requirements established by welfare reform. If the State issues benefits to these individuals, they must pay the Federal Government back and will not receive Federal match for those recipients.
- Change the 50/50 Federal reimbursement provisions;
- Change QC system requirements, payment error rate, and associated liability process for payment error rates; or
- Change 50/50 Federal reimbursement provisions for eligibility systems.

FNS is available to answer questions and provide technical assistance to States requesting demonstration projects. If you are unsure whether your State's request would require an impermissible waiver, please contact FNS.

### Additional Restrictions on Demonstration Projects

- Demonstration projects may be approved for up to five years with extensions possible thereafter.
- If a demonstration project reduces benefits by more than 20 percent for more than 5 percent of households in the project area (excluding households whose benefits are reduced for failure to comply with work requirements), the demonstration project:
  - cannot affect more than 15% of households in the State AND
  - may not continue for more than 5 years unless the Secretary approves an extension request.
- Demonstration projects **may not**:
  - Provide benefits in the form of cash or a manner otherwise non-restricted to food (except for a project approved before August 22, 1996);
  - Allow SNAP funds to be used to fund other public assistance programs, or use the funds for any purpose other than the purchase of food, program administration, or employment and training activities; or
  - Count SNAP benefits as income or resources for tax purposes, welfare, public assistance programs or any other Federal, State, or local assistance program (Sec. 8(b)).