

Appendix G.3.

FNS Response to Federal Register Comment 3

Sent on September 28, 2023

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Food and
Nutrition
Service
1320
Braddock
Place
Alexandria,
VA
22314

Dear State of New Mexico, Human Services Department,

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service thanks you for your comment on our proposed information collection entitled "How Have SNAP State Agencies Shifted Operations in the Aftermath of COVID-19?"

To address your comments on the following items:

- (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information shall have practical utility.

Thank you for providing your experience and feedback on eligibility and reporting requirements related to the flexibilities allowed during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. All 53 State agencies will be asked to participate in the survey portion of the study and the case study States will be selected based on criteria to cover States with varying program characteristics, such as how the program is administered. Case study States will be invited to participant once data collection begins.

- (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used.

Thank you for your feedback regarding the accuracy of the burden. Only States selected as case studies will be asked to pull data for the study. This requirement will be discussed prior to States agreeing to participate in the case study portion of the study. All States will be asked to submit readily available program documents to review for the study.

- (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

For the survey, the State SNAP directors can assign the appropriate staff to each section of the survey. The State SNAP director can assign tenured staff or several staff to the different sections. For the case studies, the research team will discuss the interview topics with the State SNAP agency prior to the interviews. The research team will then work with the State SNAP agency to identify the appropriate staff, including those staff that were employed through the pandemic, for the virtual interviews.

- (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The case study interviews will be completely virtual. The research team can use Zoom or Webex to conduct the virtual interviews with State SNAP agency staff based on the State's preference.

Best Regards

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