

Certification Extension Waiver Frequently Asked Questions Updated December 2020

The Department of Social and Health Services will extend the certification periods of households with Eligibility Reviews as follows:

- Reviews due in November 2020 for two months, to January 2021;
- Reviews due in December 2020 for two months, to February 2021;
- Reviews due in January 2021 for four months, to May 2021; and
- Reviews due in February 2021 for four months, to June 2021.

The department will also waive the Mid-Certification Review requirements from November 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

When does this start?

November 1, 2020

What programs does this affect?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF; Aged, Blind or Disabled, or ABD; Housing and Essential Needs, or HEN; Working Family Support, or WFS; and all Food Assistance programs.

What about an extension past March 2021?

At this time, we are focusing on the months of November to February 2021 to ensure households facing impacts from COVID-19 or barriers with contacting the department can continue to receive benefits without interruption. We will assess if future extensions will be considered as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 Pandemic. If additional months are approved, additional communication will be released.

Will I receive a letter reminding me to complete my eligibility review?

You will receive a letter at least 45 days prior to the end of your new certification period to complete the eligibility review and if an interview is required.

Do I have to report any changes before my next review?

Yes. You are still required to report required changes based on the benefits you receive as indicated in [WAC 388-418-0005](https://www.wa.gov/388-418-0005).