

## **Certification Extension Waiver Frequently Asked Questions**

As of April 24, 2020, the Department of Social and Health Services will extend the certification periods of households with Eligibility Reviews due in the month of April or May for six additional months, extending these certifications through October and November 2020. This applies to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Aged, Blind or Disabled and Housing Essential Needs; Working Family Support; and all Food Assistance programs. The department will also waive the Mid-Certification Review requirements in April and May, and benefits will continue through the end of certification periods while households meet all other eligibility requirements.

### **What date does this start?**

April 24, 2020

### **What programs does this affect?**

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

### **What about an extension for June?**

At this time, USDA Food and Nutrition Service approved extensions in the months of April and May only. If additional months are approved, additional communication will be released.

### **How will DSHS process calls for eligibility and mid-certification reviews before April 24, 2020?**

DSHS will continue to process them as normal until April 24, 2020.

### **What if I completed a review before April 24, 2020?**

This waiver does not apply to you if you completed your eligibility review prior to April 24, 2020, as your benefits are already recertified for 12 months. This waiver does not apply to you if you completed your mid-certification review prior to April 24, 2020 as you will continue with the normal certification period.

### **What if I sent in my eligibility review before April 24, 2020, but I didn't complete the interview?**

The department will automatically recertify your case for an additional six months, and changes will be processed using our normal change of circumstance rules. If a change causes your benefits to reduce, you will receive a letter explaining the rules that apply to your situation. If a change normally increases benefits, but you did not provide the verification, your benefits will remain the same.

### **What if I completed my eligibility review before April 24, 2020, and it is pending for more information, but I have not yet returned the information?**

The department will automatically recertify your case for an additional six months and will treat your pending eligibility review as a change of circumstance. If a change causes your benefits to reduce, you will receive a letter

explaining the rules that apply to your situation. If a change normally increases benefits, but you did not provide the verification, your benefits will remain the same.

**What if my April eligibility review is received after April 23, 2020?**

Your eligibility review will be treated like a change of circumstance, unless you call and speak to a worker. If it is processed as a change of circumstance, and a change causes your benefits to reduce, you will receive a letter explaining the rules that apply to your situation. If a change normally increases benefits, but you do not provide the verification, your benefits will remain the same.

**Will I receive a termination letter if I haven't completed my eligibility review which is due in April?**

No, termination letters will not be issued in April or May.

**Will I receive a letter reminding me to complete my eligibility review in May 2020?**

No, these letters will not be issued.