New Jersey: Waiver of Work Activity Requirement for NJ SNAP and Work First New Jersey Cash Assistance Clients

Description of Program and Relief

In light of concerns about the spread of COVID-19, New Jersey has waived the requirement that enrollees in its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“NJ SNAP”) (food assistance program for low-income families) and Work First New Jersey cash assistance (New Jersey’s welfare reform program that provides cash assistance to individuals and families) work or participate in a work activity such as education, job skills training, or substance abuse treatment. Clients for these programs are excused from their work or work activity requirement for those programs without penalty. This waiver includes people who are applying for Work First New Jersey General Assistance and who are required to be working or in a work activity for 28 days while their application is being reviewed. Voluntary participation in work or a work activity is allowed, if the activity is conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Government or Lead Agency

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Family Development

Dates Available

March 18, 2020, continuing indefinitely

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

Must be a client of NJ SNAP or Work First New Jersey cash assistance.

Application Deadlines (If Applicable)

N/A

Contact for More Information

Work First NJ State Office phone: 1-800-792-9773

SNAP NJ State Office phone: 1-800-687-9512
List of Additional Information

More information is available on the Office of the Governor’s website:


Further information is also available in the New Jersey Department of Human Services’s guidance on COVID-19: