



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Director's Office
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640
Main: 907.465.3347
Fax: 907.465.5154

Dear Fellow Alaskan –

The Division of Public Assistance has been working closely with our federal partners to assist our customers during this time of uncertainties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. A good resource for all Alaskans is 211. Simply dial "211" from your phone to learn what resources are available in your community.

Several changes resulting from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act include:

Medicaid

All Medicaid cases open as of March 18, 2020, will remain open through the end of the COVID-19 emergency, unless an individual requests to have their case closed, they are no longer a resident of Alaska, or they are deceased. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have additionally allowed for enhanced services and resources to assist the public through this outbreak. More information will be coming on these services and resources in the very near future.

SNAP

The Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limits are being temporarily suspended. This suspension will apply from April 1, 2020 through the end of the month *following* the month in which the public health emergency declaration is lifted. SNAP participants not otherwise exempt are still subject to work requirements.

Please also reach out to your local food banks for assistance.

Temporary Assistance (TANF)

Our Work Services case managers are still providing supportive services to our Temporary Assistance clients. Please reach out to your local case manager.

All Public Assistance Programs

ALL Public Assistance programs, including SNAP, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance, Adult Public Assistance, and Senior Benefits will be certified out an additional six months from their current certification end date, without the household needing to submit a recertification form. For example, cases certified through May will be certified through November and cases certified through June will be certified through December.

The Division of Public Assistance is committed to assisting our neighbors in need and we are working diligently to provide the highest level of customer service possible during this difficult time in our communities. This situation is changing rapidly and we are anticipating many changes in the coming days and weeks. We encourage everyone to adhere to guidance from the CDC, the Department of Health and Social Services, and your local communities.

In an effort help "flatten the curve," we are encouraging customers to contact their local Public Assistance office by phone, email, mail or fax instead of in person. Find your local office information here: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/contacts.aspx>

For all Public Assistance resources and more information, go to <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawnda O'Brien".

Shawnda O'Brien
Director