



CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

September 19, 2025

Patrick A. Penn
Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
United States Department of Agriculture
Patrick.Penn@usda.gov

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES RESPONSE TO
AUGUST 20, 2025 LETTER

Dear Deputy Under Secretary Penn:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is in receipt of your letter dated August 20, 2025. We have also received notice of the Court Order filed on September 18, 2025 in *California v. USDA*, No. 3:25-cv-06310-MMC (N.D. Cal.). In that Order, the Court temporarily enjoined USDA "from acting on the [August 20, 2025] formal warning letters, including by disallowing SNAP funding." Because the Order enjoins any actions that would flow from your August 20, 2025 letter, CDSS understands that USDA's previously imposed deadline for submitting data or a corrective action proposal has been stayed pending further Court action.

As we have previously stated, CDSS will continue to comply with federal and state law when it comes to awarding and administering benefits, including by ensuring that SNAP is only provided to individuals and families who are eligible, and by continuing to meet our obligations under existing data sharing agreements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Fernández García".

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division