



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Date: January 20, 2016

Food and
Nutrition Service

Subject: SNAP – District of Columbia Waiver Request for extended suspension of time limits for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) into FY2017

Mid-Atlantic Region

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ
08691-1598

To: Lizbeth Silbermann
Director

Program Development Division

Attached please find a waiver request from the District of Columbia. The State agency has requested an extension of its current statewide waiver for ABAWD time limits. The District would like to suspend the time limits through December 31, 2017.

This extension request is based upon the State's unemployment rate being 20% above the national average for the 24 month period of November 1, 2015 through December 2017. The District has provided relevant data from the Department of Labor for the time period which supports this request. Therefore, we recommend approval of this waiver.

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Jacober-Brown of my staff at (609) 259-5132 or sally.jacobers-brown@fns.usda.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gagliardi".

DAVID GAGLIARDI
Program Operations Branch Chief
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**



Office of the Director

DEC 13 2015

Mr. Eric Ratchford
Regional Director
USDA/FNS/MARO
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

The District of Columbia currently has a waiver (DC 2150043) to suspend time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) throughout the District through December 31, 2016. Please accept this letter as notification of the District of Columbia's request to extend the suspension of time limits for ABAWDS throughout the District through December 31, 2017. The supporting documentation and waiver application is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Anthea Seymour, Administrator of the D.C. Economic Security Administration, on 202-698-3906.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Green Zeilinger".

Laura Green Zeilinger
Director

CC: Anthea Seymour

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150043
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** District of Columbia
5. **Region:** MARO
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3 year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with, the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The District of Columbia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in the entire district from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for a time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average for this same 24-month time period by 20 percent. Guidance suggests that areas can be eligible for a two-year waiver if they have a 36-month average unemployment rate that is more than 20 percent above the national average, ending no earlier than 3 months prior to the request.¹

The District of Columbia is eligible for a two-year waiver based on the District's average unemployment rate for the 36-month period of November 2012-October 2015. Twenty percent above the U.S. national average for this period was 7.7

¹ Food and Nutrition Service, February 3, 2006. "FSP – 2-Year Approval of Waivers of the Work Requirements for ABAWDs under 7 CFR 273.24." <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/020306.pdf>

percent; the District's unemployment rate for this period was 7.9 percent. These calculations are based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

	Labor Force Total, Nov 2012-Oct 2015	Unemployment Total, Nov 2012-Oct 2015	Unemployment Rate
District of Columbia	13,613,244	1,073,352	7.9
20% Above National Average Threshold			7.7

9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.
10. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** The caseload for these areas represent the entire state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a two-year waiver, from November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
13. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Anthea Seymour, Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Service
64 NY Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002
Anthea.seymour2@dc.gov
(202) 698-3900

14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**


Name: Laura Green Zeilinger
Title: Director, Department of Human Services
Email for transmission of response:

Laura.zeilinger@dc.gov
Anthea.seymour2@dc.gov
Ellen.wells@dc.gov

15. Date of request:

DEC 15 2015

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Anthea Seymour, Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Service
64 NY Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002
Anthea.seymour2@dc.gov
(202) 698-3900

17. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ELIGIBLE FOR A 2-YEAR WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF OCT 2012- SEP 2015 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
District of Columbia (see "DC" tab)	13,595,148	1,079,630	0.07941	0.0794	7.94	7.9
United States (see "US" tab) 20% Above the National Average	5,615,029,000	364,748,000	0.06496	0.0649 0.0778	7.78	7.8

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey **Original Data Value**

Series Id: LNU01000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
 Labor force Civilian labor force
 status:
 Type of data: Number in thousands
 Age: 16 years and over
 Years: 2004 to 2015

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	146068	146154	146525	146260	146659	148478	149217	148166	147186	147978	148246	147877
2005	147125	147649	147745	148274	148878	150327	151122	150469	149838	150304	150239	149874
2006	149090	149686	150027	150209	150696	152557	153208	152465	151635	152397	152590	152571
2007	151924	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493	153400	153516	154035	153705
2008	152828	152503	153135	153208	154003	155582	156300	155387	154509	155012	154624	154349
2009	153445	153804	153728	153834	154336	155921	156255	154697	153617	153635	153539	152693
2010	152957	153194	153660	153911	153866	154767	155270	154678	153854	153652	153698	153156
2011	152536	152635	153022	152898	153449	154538	154812	154344	154022	154088	153983	153373
2012	153485	154114	154316	153905	154998	156385	156526	155255	155075	155779	154953	154904
2013	154794	154727	154512	154739	155734	157089	157196	155971	155536	154918	155046	154408
2014	154381	155027	155627	154845	155841	156997	157573	156434	155903	156616	156297	155521
2015	156050	156213	156318	156554	157719	158283	158527	157390	156607			

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey **Original Data Value**

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
 Labor force Unemployed
 status:

Type of data: Number in thousands
 Age: 16 years and over
 Years: 2004 to 2015

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	9144	8770	8834	7837	7792	8616	8518	7940	7545	7531	7665	7599
2005	8444	8549	7986	7335	7287	7870	7839	7327	7259	6964	7271	6956
2006	7608	7692	7255	6804	6655	7341	7602	7086	6625	6272	6576	6491
2007	7649	7400	6913	6532	6486	7295	7556	7088	6952	6773	6917	7371
2008	8221	7953	8027	7287	8076	8933	9433	9479	9199	9469	10015	10999
2009	13009	13699	13895	13248	13973	15095	15201	14823	14538	14547	14407	14740
2010	16147	15991	15678	14609	14369	14885	15137	14759	14140	13903	14282	13997
2011	14937	14542	14060	13237	13421	14409	14428	14008	13520	13102	12613	12692
2012	13541	13430	12904	11910	12271	13184	13400	12696	11742	11741	11404	11844
2013	13181	12500	11815	11014	11302	12248	12083	11462	10885	10773	10271	9984
2014	10855	10893	10537	9079	9443	9893	10307	9787	8962	8680	8630	8331
2015	9498	9095	8682	7966	8370	8638	8805	8162	7628			

	Labor Force	Unemploy	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
January 2013-Dec	3,735,732	252,915	0.0677	0.0812	8.12	8.1
February 2013-Jan	3,736,988	249,232	0.0666	0.0799	7.99	8
March 2013-Feb	3,738,474	245,827	0.0657	0.0788	7.88	7.9
April 2013-Marc	3,740,280	242,694	0.0648	0.0777	7.77	7.8
May 2013-April	3,742,095	239,646	0.064	0.0768	7.68	7.7
June 2013-May	3,744,080	236,714	0.0632	0.0758	7.58	7.6
July 2013-June 2	3,745,274	233,104	0.0622	0.0746	7.46	7.5
August 2013-Jul	3,746,605	229,826	0.0613	0.0735	7.35	7.4
September 2013	3,748,024	226,526	0.0604	0.0724	7.24	7.2
October 2013-Sep	3,749,095	223,269	0.0595	0.0714	7.14	7.1
3-year						
August 2012-Jul	561362	373396	0.0665	0.0798	7.98	8

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Original Data Value

Series Id: LAUST1100000000000006
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Area: District of Columbia
 Area Type: Statewide
 State/Region/Division: District of Columbia
 Measure: labor force
 Years: 2005 to 2015

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	316069	317597	315661	313856	313363	319172	323030	317019	313407	312925	313054	312239
2006	311599	313570	312694	310838	312489	320714	324628	318325	316012	317291	317734	317103
2007	317298	320662	320210	318644	318409	323949	328277	322874	321973	324211	325373	324961
2008	325280	327803	327984	326763	327551	333522	339374	335318	331843	330226	330635	330248
2009	331629	333423	330812	328439	330466	337643	344905	339281	334990	337518	339461	339294
2010	340540	341382	342516	344365	346604	352782	356243	346083	344844	345639	346171	345611
2011	348512	351433	350024	348536	347670	354101	358239	351566	350424	349253	349851	350501
2012	353128	356916	357560	356278	360289	368193	372777	368108	368728	371445	373443	373437
2013	374025	375880	373953	372270	372407	376699	379947	372161	370824	370533	371995	371236
2014	370722	373043	371737	369967	372208	379139	384046	378678	380392	383208	384217	382019
2015	384458	386964	381533	383999	380156	386321	391892	385868	384331	389536		

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Original Data Value

Series Id: LAUST1100000000000004
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Area: District of Columbia
 Area Type: Statewide
 State/Region/Division: District of Columbia
 Measure: unemployment
 Years: 2005 to 2015

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	24565	23485	22083	19497	20228	21661	20295	18443	18131	17909	17990	17292
2006	18517	18396	17941	16257	17413	19727	19814	18734	18835	18272	18152	17506
2007	18768	18172	17246	15298	16348	18847	18810	17901	18291	18067	18146	17832
2008	19793	19338	19018	17089	18846	21575	22231	21930	22720	23462	24813	25403
2009	27690	28335	28061	26866	29240	32348	33098	33145	33749	34201	34114	33218
2010	34575	33674	32620	29934	30902	33596	33641	32420	32301	32363	32607	32052
2011	34534	34968	35080	33589	35422	38695	38463	36828	36349	35432	34831	34008
2012	35506	34969	33735	30656	31525	33761	33711	32676	32716	32284	32386	32219
2013	33897	33285	32279	29957	30945	33490	33337	31999	31848	31951	29706	28205

Bureau of Labor Statistics

2014	29877	30166	29228	26514	27378	30195	31205	30649	30366	29563	29278	28365
2015	30854	31523	27641	25791	25448	26647	27355	27206	26569	26030		
Labor Force Unemployment												
August 2012-July 2015	13561790	1091223	8.0									
September 2012-August 2015	13579550	1085753	8.0									
October 2012-September 2015	13595153	1079606	7.9									
November 2012-October 2015	13613244	1073352	7.9									

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population : Original Data Value

Series Id: LNU03000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level

Labor force status: Unemployed

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Years: 2005 to 2015

Series ID	Year	Period	Value
LNU03000000	2005	M01	8444
LNU03000000	2005	M02	8549
LNU03000000	2005	M03	7986
LNU03000000	2005	M04	7335
LNU03000000	2005	M05	7287
LNU03000000	2005	M06	7870
LNU03000000	2005	M07	7839
LNU03000000	2005	M08	7327
LNU03000000	2005	M09	7259
LNU03000000	2005	M10	6964
LNU03000000	2005	M11	7271
LNU03000000	2005	M12	6956
LNU03000000	2006	M01	7608
LNU03000000	2006	M02	7692
LNU03000000	2006	M03	7255
LNU03000000	2006	M04	6804
LNU03000000	2006	M05	6655

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population : Original Data Value

Series Id: LNU01000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level

Labor force status: Civilian labor force

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Years: 2005 to 2015

Series ID	Year	Period	Value
LNU01000000	2005	M01	147125
LNU01000000	2005	M02	147649
LNU01000000	2005	M03	147745
LNU01000000	2005	M04	148274
LNU01000000	2005	M05	148878
LNU01000000	2005	M06	150327
LNU01000000	2005	M07	151122
LNU01000000	2005	M08	150469
LNU01000000	2005	M09	149838
LNU01000000	2005	M10	150304
LNU01000000	2005	M11	150239
LNU01000000	2005	M12	149874
LNU01000000	2006	M01	149090
LNU01000000	2006	M02	149686
LNU01000000	2006	M03	150027
LNU01000000	2006	M04	150209
LNU01000000	2006	M05	150696

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LN003000000	2006	M07	7602	LN001000000	2006	M07	153208
LN003000000	2006	M08	7086	LN001000000	2006	M08	152465
LN003000000	2006	M09	6625	LN001000000	2006	M09	151635
LN003000000	2006	M10	6272	LN001000000	2006	M10	152397
LN003000000	2006	M11	6576	LN001000000	2006	M11	152590
LN003000000	2006	M12	6491	LN001000000	2006	M12	152571
LN003000000	2007	M01	7649	LN001000000	2007	M01	151924
LN003000000	2007	M02	7400	LN001000000	2007	M02	151879
LN003000000	2007	M03	6913	LN001000000	2007	M03	152236
LN003000000	2007	M04	6532	LN001000000	2007	M04	151829
LN003000000	2007	M05	6486	LN001000000	2007	M05	152350
LN003000000	2007	M06	7295	LN001000000	2007	M06	154252
LN003000000	2007	M07	7556	LN001000000	2007	M07	154871
LN003000000	2007	M08	7088	LN001000000	2007	M08	153493
LN003000000	2007	M09	6952	LN001000000	2007	M09	153400
LN003000000	2007	M10	6773	LN001000000	2007	M10	153516
LN003000000	2007	M11	6917	LN001000000	2007	M11	154035
LN003000000	2007	M12	7371	LN001000000	2007	M12	153705
LN003000000	2008	M01	8221	LN001000000	2008	M01	152828
LN003000000	2008	M02	7953	LN001000000	2008	M02	152503
LN003000000	2008	M03	8027	LN001000000	2008	M03	153135
LN003000000	2008	M04	7287	LN001000000	2008	M04	153208
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LN003000000	2008	M11	10015	LN001000000	2008	M11	154624
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LN003000000	2009	M01	13009	LN001000000	2009	M01	153445
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LN003000000	2009	M03	13895	LN001000000	2009	M03	153728

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LN003000000	2009	M05	13973	LN001000000	2009	M05	154336
LN003000000	2009	M06	15095	LN001000000	2009	M06	155921
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LN003000000	2009	M08	14823	LN001000000	2009	M08	154897
LN003000000	2009	M09	14538	LN001000000	2009	M09	153617
LN003000000	2009	M10	14547	LN001000000	2009	M10	153635
LN003000000	2009	M11	14407	LN001000000	2009	M11	153539
LN003000000	2009	M12	14740	LN001000000	2009	M12	152693
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LN003000000	2011	M02	14542	LN001000000	2011	M02	152635
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LN003000000	2011	M08	14008	LN001000000	2011	M08	154344
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LN003000000	2011	M10	13102	LN001000000	2011	M10	154088
LN003000000	2011	M11	12613	LN001000000	2011	M11	153683
LN003000000	2011	M12	12692	LN001000000	2011	M12	153373
LN003000000	2012	M01	13541	LN001000000	2012	M01	153485

LNU03000000	2012	M02	13430	LNU01000000	2012	M02	154114
LNU03000000	2012	M03	12904	LNU01000000	2012	M03	154316
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LNU03000000	2012	M05	12271	LNU01000000	2012	M05	154998
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LNU03000000	2013	M09	10885	LNU01000000	2013	M09	155536
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LNU03000000	2013	M11	10271	LNU01000000	2013	M11	155046
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LNU03000000	2014	M01	10855	LNU01000000	2014	M01	154381
LNU03000000	2014	M02	10893	LNU01000000	2014	M02	155027
LNU03000000	2014	M03	10537	LNU01000000	2014	M03	155627
LNU03000000	2014	M04	9079	LNU01000000	2014	M04	154845
LNU03000000	2014	M05	9443	LNU01000000	2014	M05	155841
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LNU03000000	2014	M09	8962	LNU01000000	2014	M09	155903
LNU03000000	2014	M10	8680	LNU01000000	2014	M10	156616
LNU03000000	2014	M11	8630	LNU01000000	2014	M11	156297

LNU03000000	2014	M12	8331
LNU03000000	2015	M01	9498
LNU03000000	2015	M02	9095
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LNU03000000	2015	M09	7628
LNU03000000	2015	M10	7597
LNU03000000	2015	M11	7573

LNU01000000	2014	M12	155521
LNU01000000	2015	M01	156050
LNU01000000	2015	M02	156213
LNU01000000	2015	M03	156318
LNU01000000	2015	M04	156554
LNU01000000	2015	M05	157719
LNU01000000	2015	M06	158283
LNU01000000	2015	M07	158527
LNU01000000	2015	M08	157390
LNU01000000	2015	M09	156607
LNU01000000	2015	M10	157313
LNU01000000	2015	M11	157340

	Labor Force	Unemploy	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
August 2012-July 201	5611362	373396	0.0665	0.0798	7.98	8
September 2012-Aug	5613497	368862	0.0657	0.0788	7.88	7.9
October 2012-Septen	5615029	364748	0.0649	0.0778	7.78	7.8
November 2012-Octc	5616563	360604	0.0642	0.077	7.7	7.7