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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

July 1, 2016

Mr. Dwight Crudup, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
USDA – Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce St., Room 522
Dallas, TX 75242

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Statewide Waiver for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDS) – 7CFR 273.24(f)(2)

Dear Mr. Crudup,

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is requesting an extension of the statewide ABAWD waiver. This waiver request is based on having insufficient jobs as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor data which shows that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2015-31 shows the State's three-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.5 percent and (2) 110 percent of the three-month average for the corresponding period in the previous year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits. Therefore, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services is requesting approval to extend the current ABAWD waiver for a one-year period from August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017.

If additional information is needed, please contact Kim Matherne by email at Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov or by telephone at (225) 219-2428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sammy Guillory".

Sammy Guillory,
Deputy Assistant Secretary

SG/pjc

cc: Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services



STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2160020

2. Type of request:

Extension

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

Louisiana

5. Region:

SWRO

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 SNAP benefits for more than three months during any 36-month 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:

This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State qualifying for extended unemployment benefits within the past 12 months.

8. Justification for request:

Louisiana is requesting a waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs based on the U.S. Department of Labor data that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows States the option of providing an additional alternative trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) for the most recent three months reaching at least: (1) 6.5 percent; and (2) 110 percent of such TUR for the

corresponding three-month periods ending in either or both of the two preceding calendar years.

The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2015 – 31¹ shows the State's three-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.5 percent and (2) 110 percent of the three-month average for the corresponding period in the first preceding year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

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):

As of May 2016, Louisiana's SNAP caseload was 414,901 households representing 909,957 recipients. The statewide error rate for FFY 2015 was 0.75 percent. The total number of ABAWDs statewide is 70,837.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

None.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Sammy Guillory

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary

Email for transmission of response: Sammy.Guillory.DCFS@la.gov

15. Date of request: July 1, 2016

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

Kim Matherne / Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov / 225-219-2428

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

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger notice 2015-31 was issued the week of August 16, 2015.

TRIGGER NOTICE NO. 2015 - 31
STATE EXTENDED BENEFIT (EB) INDICATORS UNDER P.L. 112-240
Effective August 16, 2015

		INDICATORS						STATUS	
		13 Weeks Insured Unemployment Rate	Percent of Prior Years	3 months S.A. TUR	Percent of Prior Year	Second Year	Available Weeks	Begin Date(B) End Date(E)	
	& Alabama	1.36	74	6.0	87	86		E 04-21-2012	
	Alaska	2.71	71	6.7	97	97		E 05-04-2013	
	& Arizona	1.38	80	5.9	86	79		E 06-11-2011	
	& Arkansas	1.94	84	5.7	92	78		E 09-26-2009	
	& California	2.31	78	6.3	83	71		E 05-12-2012	
	& Colorado	1.24	76	4.3	83	64		E 05-12-2012	
	Connecticut	2.43	76	6.0	91	77		E 05-12-2012	
*	& Delaware	1.59	78	4.6	78	67		E 04-21-2012	
	& District of Col	1.56	74	7.3	94	85		E 06-09-2012	
*	& Florida	0.84	57	5.6	89	78		E 05-12-2012	
*	& Georgia	0.99	66	6.2	85	76		E 04-21-2012	
	& Hawaii	1.30	69	4.0	89	83		E 01-24-1981	
	& Idaho	1.14	71	3.9	80	63		E 08-11-2012	
	& Illinois	2.13	79	6.0	85	67		E 05-12-2012	
	& Indiana	0.77	59	5.1	86	65		E 04-21-2012	
*	& Iowa	1.20	89	3.8	86	79		E 06-04-1983	
	Kansas	1.10	69	4.4	98	83		E 04-07-2012	
*	& Kentucky	1.24	62	5.1	76	63		E 04-07-2012	
	& Louisiana	1.37	109	6.5	110	96		E 02-25-2006	
	& Maine	1.21	70	4.7	82	70		E 02-18-2012	
	& Maryland	1.67	76	5.3	91	80		E 04-21-2012	
	& Massachusetts	2.01	78	4.6	79	69		E 04-07-2012	
*	& Michigan	1.33	68	5.5	75	64		E 02-18-2012	
	Minnesota	1.24	80	3.8	93	78		E 01-14-2012	
	& Mississippi	1.49	66	6.6	86	77		E 07-16-1983	
	& Missouri	1.32	78	5.8	95	88		E 04-07-2012	
	& Montana	1.50	76	3.9	83	72		E 06-19-2010	
	& Nebraska	0.72	76	2.6	76	68		E 01-24-1981	
	& Nevada	2.21	82	7.0	89	72		E 07-07-2012	
*	New Hampshire	0.82	67	3.8	86	75		E 08-14-2010	
	New Jersey	2.66	83	6.4	97	78		E 07-07-2012	
	& New Mexico	1.73	80	6.2	93	93		E 01-28-2012	
	& New York	1.81	76	5.7	89	75		E 12-09-2012	
	North Carolina	0.87	46	5.7	90	70		E 05-12-2012	
*	& North Dakota	0.81	151	3.1	115	103		E 06-11-1983	
	& Ohio	1.16	78	5.2	91	70		E 04-07-2012	
	& Oklahoma	1.51	121	4.3	93	81		E 01-24-1981	
	Oregon	1.78	74	5.3	76	67		E 04-07-2012	
	& Pennsylvania	2.40	81	5.4	92	76		E 05-12-2012	
	& Puerto Rico	3.43	81	12.4	91	91		E 12-18-2010	
	Rhode Island	2.01	81	6.0	76	65		E 07-07-2012	
	& South Carolina	0.88	62	6.7	108	86		E 04-07-2012	
*	& South Dakota	0.35	85	3.7	109	97		E 01-24-1981	
	& Tennessee	1.03	70	5.8	89	73		E 04-07-2012	
	& Texas	1.58	105	4.2	82	68		E 05-12-2012	
*	& Utah	0.83	73	3.5	92	78		E 06-25-1983	
	Vermont	1.36	80	3.6	90	82		E 07-10-2010	
	& Virgin Islands	2.23	93	7.3	104	85		E 08-06-1983	
	& Virginia	0.82	77	4.9	94	88		E 05-14-2011	
*	Washington	1.55	77	5.4	87	77		E 04-21-2012	
	& West Virginia	2.18	100	7.2	107	109		E 06-09-2012	
	& Wisconsin	1.54	62	4.5	82	67		E 04-07-2012	
*	& Wyoming	1.88	137	4.1	95	87		E 06-13-1987	

Total Number 'ON': 0

0

0

* - State does not have 6 % IUR option in law.

USDOL/ETA/OUI/DFAS

& - State does not have TUR option in law.

8/14/2015

@ - State "ON" by 3-month average TUR.

- State "ON" by 13-week IUR.

IUR reflects 13-week period ending August 1, 2015.

TUR reflects avg. seasonally adjusted TUR for 3-month period ending June 2015.