



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

OCT 09 2015

Mr. Brandon Hardin
Food Assistance Division Director
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Center for Communications
Gordon Persons Building, Suite 2104
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

RE: SNAP – Alabama Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Mr. Hardin:

This is in response to the Alabama Department of Human Resources' request to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in 13 counties from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.

The Alabama State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit based upon each of the 13 counties having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2013 through February 2015. The 13 requested counties are Barbour, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox Counties.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State agency demonstrates that each of the 13 counties had an average unemployment rate that reached 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month period. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 13 counties for 12 months, effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. The detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Mitchell at Jacqueline.Mitchell@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

Mr. Brandon Hardin
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T0: Brandon.Hardin@dhr.alabama.gov
cc: Mary.Monroe@dhr.alabama.gov
Mitchell, Jacqueline <Jacqueline.Mitchell@fns.usda.gov>;
ABAWD Waivers

FINAL:FNS:SNAP:PDD:CPB:RobertEk:cf:10/8/15:703-305-2521
FILE: S:\SNAP ALL\PDD_FY16\Waivers\2150024 - AL ABAWD - 13
Counties - Approval

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
	Ek	10/8/15			
PPO	McConnell	10/9/15			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

RE

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150024
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Alabama
5. **Region:** Southeast
6. **Regulatory requirement:** Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be 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 ABAWD work requirement. Regulations at 7 CFR 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 at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating and complying with a workfare program.

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Alabama State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in Barbour, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox counties. Alabama has supported its request based upon each having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2013 through February 2015. During this 24-month period the national unemployment rate was 6.6 percent; 20 percent above this is 7.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2013 through February 2015*	
County	Unemployment Rate
Barbour	10.4%
Choctaw	9.0%
Clarke	12.9%
Conecuh	10.6%
Dallas	11.7%
Greene	12.5%
Hale	10.4%
Lowndes	13.2%
Monroe	11.5%
Perry	12.8%
Sumter	8.8%
Washington	10.1%
Wilcox	17.9%
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.9%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 24, 2015

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 13 counties because the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. Barbour, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox Counties qualify for the waiver because each county had an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2013 through February 2015.
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.

11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests an extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Alabama State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** **OCT 09 2015**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** July 29, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 6, 2015
17. **Implementation date:** January 1, 2016
18. **State agency contact:**
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(334)242-1747
19. **FNS regional contacts:**
Jacqueline Mitchell
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(404)562-1938