



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

AUG 29 2016

Chevera Trillo
Workforce Administrator
Arizona Department of Economic Services
1789 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: SNAP – Arizona Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. Trillo:

This is in response to the Arizona State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 12 counties, one city, and 18 Native American Reservation areas from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is approving Arizona to waive the time limit in the 12 counties, one city, and 18 Native American Reservation areas for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150033. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

If you have any questions please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at (415) 645-1923.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

RBE

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150033
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Arizona
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides 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. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside in an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Arizona State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 12 contiguous counties, one city, and 18 reservation areas from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The State agency has grouped the 12 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area, while considering the city and reservation areas individually. The State has supported its request based upon the areas having aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.6 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2014 – March 2016*		
County Group	Unemployment	Labor Force
Apache County	69,256	499,898
Cochise County	91,757	1,209,221
Coconino County	115,588	1,748,897
Gila County	40,620	512,146
Graham County	25,867	350,422
Greenlee County	7,659	100,368
La Paz County	14,513	195,998
Mohave County	153,536	1,898,304
Navajo County	98,384	989,924
Pinal County	242,423	3,760,911
Santa Cruz County	56,345	481,365
Yuma County	484,519	2,248,334
Combined Area Total	1,400,467	13,995,788
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	10%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 2, 2016.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2014 – March 2016*			
City	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Apache Junction City, Maricopa County Part	137	1,455	9.42%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 2, 2016.

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data April 2014 – March 2016*			
Reservation Area	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Cocopah	3,249	8,277	39%
Colorado River	6,851	95,645	7.1%
Fort Apache	31,455	124,086	25.3%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	606	7,577	8.0%
Mojave	957	9,740	9.8%
Gila River	20,509	96,829	21.1%
Havasupai	269	1,975	13.6%
Hopi	5,627	70,702	7.9%
Hualapai	1,613	13,195	12.2%
Kaibab	533	2,372	22.5%

Maricopa (Ak Chin)	1,467	11,913	12.3%
Navajo	117,454	733,096	16.0%
Pascua Pueblo Yaqui	3,535	28,635	12.3%
Salt River	4,482	48,058	9.3%
San Carlos	15,716	78,816	19.9%
Tohono O'odham Nation	13,264	77,333	17.1%
Tonto Apache	81	911	8.9%
Yavapai-Apache	1,122	9,519	11.7%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on August 4, 2016.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Arizona State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 12 counties, one city, and 18 reservation areas because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Information required for an extension:** To receive an amendment or extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). Any request based upon unemployment rates must include data spreadsheets and supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.
- 13. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Arizona State agency.
- 14. Date of national office action:** AUG 29 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** July 12, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 18, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
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(602) 771-1322
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
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