



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

August 25, 2023

Angela Rogers
Director
Department of Economic Security
1789 W Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Arizona Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Director Rogers:

This is in response to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's August 2, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Catrina Kamau

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** Arizona
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southwest
- 6. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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 has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit 14 counties and 15 reservation areas from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area of 14 counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.9 percent during the 24-month period. See Table 1.

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Table 1: Combined Area #1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, May 2021 – April 2023)

Counties
1. Apache County, AZ
2. Cochise County, AZ
3. Coconino County, AZ
4. Gila County, AZ
5. Graham County, AZ
6. Greenlee County, AZ
7. La Paz County, AZ
8. Mohave County, AZ
9. Navajo County, AZ
10. Pima County, AZ
11. Pinal County, AZ
12. Santa Cruz County, AZ
13. Yavapai County, AZ
14. Yuma County, AZ
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.9%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 16, 2023.

The State agency supported its request for the reservation areas based up the areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested reservation areas was 5.0 percent or greater during the 24-month period. See Table 2.

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Table 2: Reservation Areas (2021 American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data, May 2021 – April 2023)

Reservations	Unemployment Rate
1. Cocopah Reservation	23.5%
2. Fort Apache Reservation	9.0%
3. Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation	9.2%
4. Fort Mojave Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	8.4%
5. Gila River Indian Reservation	5.6%
6. Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	6.0%
7. Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	8.8%
8. Kaibab Indian Reservation	6.3%
9. Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	13.5%
10. Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	9.1%
11. Salt River Reservation	20.1%
12. San Carlos Reservation	12.6%
13. Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	12.4%
14. Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation	5.0%
15. Yavapai-Prescott Reservation	5.1%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <https://data.census.gov> on August 16, 2023.

- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 9. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 10. Implementation Date:** October 1, 2023
- 11. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2024
- 12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:** To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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.

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13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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