



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

October 21, 2022

Kathy Yang
Acting Chief
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SNAP – California Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Acting Chief Yang:

This is in response to the California agency's September 21, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) for two years. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. This approval, effective November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2024, replaces California's current Statewide ABAWD waiver, approved for July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

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

284F789F20374D9...

Catrina Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

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:** California
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 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 replace an approved 12-month Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit that expires on June 30, 2023 (Waiver Information Management System Case 00003696) with a 24-month Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit from November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2024. The State agency supported its request based upon the State having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of August 2019 through July 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for the State was 7.2 percent during the 36-month period.

**Table 1: State (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data,
August 2019 – July 2022)**

State	Unemployment Rate
California	7.2%
<i>Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on October 5, 2022</i>	

Enclosure
Page 2

- 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:** November 1, 2022
- 11. Expiration Date:** October 31, 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.
- 13. State Agency Contact Information:**
Name: Louise Thao
Phone Number: 916-809-5922
Email: Louise.Thao@dss.ca.gov
- 14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
Name: Barbara Smith
Phone Number: 415-705-2229
Email: barbara.smith2@usda.gov