



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: September 10, 2018

Glenn Robinson
Programs Manager
Employment and Benefits Division
Office of Economic Security
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Colorado Request to Waive
Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval**

Dear Mr. Robinson:

This is in response to the Colorado State agency's July 23, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in one county, one city, and one reservation area from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

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 the State to waive the time limit in the areas for a 12-month period, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2150042
2. **Request Type:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Colorado
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mountain Plains
7. **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.

Requested Area(s) and Support: The Colorado State agency is requesting to waive the ABAWD time limit in one county, one city, and one reservation area from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon each area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2016 through February 2018. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.4 percent. As detailed in the following table, the requested areas' individual unemployment rates for the selected time period were at least 5.4 percent.

Table 1: Individual Areas

County	Unemployment Rate March 2016-February 2018
1. Huerfano County	6.0
2. Northglenn city, Weld County part	7.2
3. Ute Mountain Reservation Area	6.1

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on July 16, 2018. Ute Mountain Reservation Area's unemployment rate was estimated using Census Bureau data in addition to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, consistent with FNS guidance.

8. FNS Action and Justification: FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. 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, 2018

11. Expiration Date: September 30, 2019

12. Information Required for Amendment or 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.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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