



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

NOV 05 2015

Roderick Bremby
Commissioner
State of Connecticut
Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

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

Dear Commissioner Bremby:

This is in response to the Connecticut Department of Social Services' request to extend and modify waiver number 2150020, which would allow Connecticut to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in a total of 82 jurisdictions from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016.

The Connecticut State agency has arranged the 82 requested jurisdictions based upon their respective locations within six of the State's official Labor Market Areas (LMA). The State then aggregated the unemployment data for the jurisdictions within their respective LMA for consideration as six individual combined areas. Based upon the Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State, each of the six combined areas had an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of January 2013 through December 2014.

Therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service is approving the waiver for all 82 requested jurisdictions for a 12-month period, effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The attached response lists all 82 jurisdictions, details the supporting evidence used, and provides the terms and conditions of the waiver approval. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Pasquaretta at Kevin.Pasquaretta@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150020
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Connecticut
5. **Region:** Northeast
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 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating in 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 Connecticut Department of Social Services has requested to waive the time limit in 82 jurisdictions. The State agency has arranged the 82 requested jurisdictions based upon their respective locations within six of the State's official Labor Market Areas (LMA). The State then aggregated the unemployment data for the jurisdictions within each LMA for consideration as six individual combined areas. The State has supported its request based upon each of the six combined areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2013 through December 2014. During this 24-month period the national average unemployment rate was 6.8 percent; 20 percent above this is 8.1 percent. As detailed in the following tables, each of the six combined areas had an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the selected time period.

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
10 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Ansonia city/town,	22,822	228,586
Bridgeport city/town,	188,877	1,714,796
Derby city/town	13,939	165,232
Milford (consolidated) city/town	43,453	706,734
Monroe town	14,602	242,806
Norwalk city/town	71,188	1,189,882
Seymour town	15,999	215,836
Shelton city/town	35,106	524,022
Stratford town	53,295	655,607
Southbury town	12,951	209,876
Combined Area Total	472,232	5,853,377
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

Danielson-Northeast LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
9 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Brooklyn town	7,322	97,263
Eastford town	1,319	22,018
Hampton town	1,875	24,567
Killingly town	19,851	227,804
Plainfield town	18,460	206,762
Pomfret town	3,117	58,279
Putnam town	9,737	115,286
Sterling town	4,334	48,080
Thompson town	8,529	123,416
Combined Area Total	74,544	923,475
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
31 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Andover town	2,754	45,754
Ashford town	3,735	60,401

Barkhamsted town	3,219	55,084
Bloomfield town	21,451	270,687
Bristol city/town	61,181	782,709
Chaplin town	2,032	29,506
Colchester town	12,897	222,616
Columbia town	4,322	76,147
Coventry town	10,572	182,224
Cromwell town	11,118	188,700
East Haddam town	7,266	118,556
East Hampton town	10,233	180,573
East Hartford town	61,157	659,162
Hartford city/town	173,633	1,311,573
Lebanon town	6,055	96,217
Manchester town	54,361	778,452
Mansfield town	20,405	295,750
Middletown city/town	43,745	624,955
New Britain city/town	90,861	879,992
New Hartford town	5,785	95,239
Newington town	24,162	409,388
Plainville town	17,111	248,093
Plymouth town	13,622	161,651
Portland town	7,473	129,173
Southington town	34,034	572,356
Stafford town	11,883	162,329
Thomaston town	7,505	113,258
Vernon town	28,137	406,004
Wethersfield town	20,234	332,313
Windham town	27,486	299,616
Windsor town	27,460	393,423
Combined Area Total	825,889	10,181,901
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

New Haven LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
10 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Branford town	23,249	375,785
Clinton town	10,431	173,405
East Haven town	30,249	377,677
Hamden town	53,688	836,598
Meriden city/town	70,553	774,090
New Haven city/town	153,367	1,551,763
Old Saybrook town	6,991	120,518

Wallingford town	38,611	622,989
West Haven city/town	62,837	721,145
Westbrook town	5,135	85,268
Combined Area Total	455,111	5,639,238
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

Norwich-New London-Westerly CT-RI LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
13 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Bozrah town	2,500	35,124
Canterbury town	4,871	68,697
East Lyme town	13,143	204,774
Griswold town	13,075	153,619
Groton town	30,517	447,224
Lisbon town	3,942	56,319
Montville town	17,005	227,662
New London city/town	31,963	296,433
Norwich city/town	43,931	494,983
Preston town	4,248	58,372
Salem town	3,399	51,036
Sprague town	3,429	39,406
Voluntown town	2,799	35,996
Combined Area Total	174,822	2,169,645
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%	

Waterbury LMA	Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 – December 2014*	
9 Jurisdictions	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Beacon Falls town	5,077	81,132
Bethlehem town	2,613	46,916
Middlebury town	4,919	90,288
Naugatuck borough/town	34,301	416,082
Prospect town	7,324	130,629
Waterbury city/town	141,942	1,237,463
Watertown town	18,855	311,557
Wolcott town	14,421	234,422
Woodbury town	7,308	132,734
Combined Area Total	236,760	2,681,223

Combined Area Unemployment Rate	8.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	8.1%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on October 8, 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 al. 82 requested jurisdictions because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This 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 extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Connecticut State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** **NOV 05 2015**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** July 22, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 7, 2015
17. **Implementation date:** January 1, 2016
18. **State agency contact:**
Ron Roberts
Ron.Roberts@ct.gov
(860) 424-5135
19. **FNS regional contact:**
Kevin Pasquaretta
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(617) 565-5402