



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: November 9, 2018

Roderick L. Bremby
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105-3730

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

Dear Commissioner Bremby:

This is in response to the Connecticut State agency's August 20, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 108 contiguous towns and cities from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 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 for a 12-month period in these areas, 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:** 2150020
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:** Connecticut
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
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.
8. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Connecticut State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 108 towns and cities from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has grouped the contiguous towns and cities for consideration as a combined area, and has supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 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 shown in the following table, the average unemployment rate for the requested area was 5.4 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

Towns and Cities
1. Andover town
2. Ansonia city/town
3. Ashford town
4. Barkhamsted town
5. Beacon Falls town
6. Bethany town
7. Bethlehem town

Towns and Cities
8. Bloomfield town
9. Bozrah town
10. Branford town
11. Bridgeport city/town
12. Bridgewater town
13. Bristol city/town
14. Brooklyn town
15. Canterbury town
16. Chaplin town
17. Clinton town
18. Colchester town
19. Colebrook town
20. Columbia town
21. Coventry town
22. Cromwell town
23. Derby city/town
24. East Haddam town
25. East Hampton town
26. East Hartford town
27. East Haven town
28. East Lyme town
29. East Windsor town
30. Eastford town
31. Ellington town
32. Enfield town
33. Franklin town
34. Goshen town
35. Griswold town
36. Groton town
37. Hamden town
38. Hampton town
39. Hartford city/town
40. Hartland town
41. Harwinton town
42. Killingly town
43. Lebanon town
44. Ledyard town
45. Lisbon town
46. Manchester town
47. Mansfield town
48. Meriden city/town
49. Middlebury town
50. Middlefield town

Towns and Cities
51. Middletown city/town
52. Milford (consolidated) city/town
53. Monroe town
54. Montville town
55. Morris town
56. Naugatuck borough/town
57. New Britain city/town
58. New Fairfield town
59. New Hartford town
60. New Haven city/town
61. New London city/town
62. New Milford town
63. Newington town
64. Norfolk town
65. North Canaan town
66. North Haven town
67. North Stonington town
68. Norwich city/town
69. Old Lyme town
70. Old Saybrook town
71. Oxford town
72. Plainfield town
73. Plainville town
74. Plymouth town
75. Portland town
76. Preston town
77. Prospect town
78. Putnam town
79. Salem town
80. Scotland town
81. Seymour town
82. Shelton city/town
83. Somers town
84. Southbury town
85. Southington town
86. Sprague town
87. Stafford town
88. Sterling town
89. Stratford town
90. Thomaston town
91. Thompson town
92. Torrington city/town
93. Vernon town

Towns and Cities	
94.	Voluntown town
95.	Wallingford town
96.	Warren town
97.	Waterbury city/town
98.	Waterford town
99.	Watertown town
100.	West Haven city/town
101.	Westbrook town
102.	Wethersfield town
103.	Winchester town
104.	Windham town
105.	Windsor Locks town
106.	Windsor town
107.	Wolcott town
108.	Woodstock town
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.4%	
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on September 28, 2018	

- 9. 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.
- 10. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** January 1, 2019
- 12. Expiration Date:** December 31, 2019
- 13. 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.
- 14. State Agency Contact Information:**
 Name: Daniel Giacomini
 Phone Number: (860) 424-5080
 Email: Daniel.Giacomini@ct.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
 Name: Megan Kallio
 Phone Number: (617) 565-6382
 Email: Megan.Kallio@usda.gov