



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

JAN 19 2017

Ms. Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
District of Columbia Department of Human Services
64 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

RE: SNAP – District of Columbia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents Time Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. Seymour:

This is in response to the District of Columbia's request waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents.

The District of Columbia is currently approved to waive the time limit throughout the District through December 31, 2017, under waiver number 2150043. The District has now requested to implement a new 24-month waiver, effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, based upon updated unemployment data.

The District'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 District of Columbia to waive the time limit throughout the District for the requested 24-month period. Effective January 1, 2017, the approval extends waiver number 2150043 and replaces FNS' February 10, 2016, approval of the same number. The attached waiver response includes the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. If you have questions, please contact Sara Vazquez at Sara.Vazquez@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150043
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 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) also provides 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 in an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The District of Columbia has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 throughout the District for the 24-month period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. The District has supported its request based upon having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of December 2013 through November 2016. During this 36-month period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, the District's average unemployment rate for the selected 36-month period was 7.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
November 2013 – October 2016*		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
District of Columbia	970,828	13,916,236
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	

* Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 8, 2016

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the District of Columbia's request to waive the ABAWD time limit because it meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. The District qualifies for a 24-month waiver based upon having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of December 2013, through November 2016.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
11. **Information required for an extension:** To receive an amendment or extension the District 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 as supporting documentation.
12. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the District of Columbia.
14. **Date of national office action:** **JAN 19 2017**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** January 17, 2017
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** January 18, 2017
17. **State agency contact:**
Anthea Seymour
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(202) 698-3906
18. **FNS regional contact:**
Sara Vazquez
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(609) 259-5073