



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park
Office
Center

3101 Park
Center
Drive

Alexandria
VA, 22302

Date: November 9, 2018

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

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 SNAP State agency's April 10, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the District 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 agency to waive the time limit 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:** 2150043
2. **Request Type:** Extension
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** District of Columbia
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mid-Atlantic
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 District of Columbia SNAP State Agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the District from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested area was 6.1 percent during the selected time period¹.
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.

¹ Data Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on April 17, 2018 and validated by FNS.

14. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Anthea Seymour

Email: Anthea.Seymour@dc.gov

Phone: (202) 698-3906

15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Geraldine.Alphe-Igiehon

Email: Geraldine.Alphe-Igiehon@fns.usda.gov

Phone: (609) 259-5110