



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

January 25, 2023

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 New York Avenue, NE
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

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

Dear Administrator Seymour:

This is in response to the District of Columbia Department of Human Services' (DHS) December 1, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. This approval, effective December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023, replaces the District of Columbia's current Statewide ABAWD waiver, approved for April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023.

The State requested to waive the SNAP time limit for ABAWDs from December 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024, or 16 months total and based the request upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits. Per [FNS guidance](#), States can only use eligibility for extended unemployment benefits to qualify for a 12-month Statewide ABAWD waiver. DHS cited challenges with caseload, training, and staffing due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in support of the request to implement; however, the State must submit documentation demonstrating chronic, sustained, and high unemployment to support a 16-month approval.

FNS is available to provide technical assistance related to ABAWD waivers and policy and can work with the State in resubmitting this request under different criteria and preparing future waiver requests.

FNS also reminds DHS that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit.

Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Anthea Seymour
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Sincerely,

Catrina Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** District of Columbia
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mid-Atlantic
- 6. 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.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to replace an approved Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit that expires on March 31, 2023 (Waiver Information Management System (WIMS) Case 00003491) with a 16-month Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit from December 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024. The State agency supported its request based upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for Statewide waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. According to the Department of Labor Trigger Notice No. 2021-48, effective December 12, 2021, the State qualified for extended unemployment benefits.¹
- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is partially approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit for 12 months. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance for only a waiver through November 30, 2023.
- 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:** December 1, 2022

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger Notice 2021-48 was issued the week of December 12, 2021.

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11. Expiration Date: November 30, 2023

12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver: To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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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