



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

OCT 13 2015

Mr. Bobby D. Cagle
Director
Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Two Peachtree Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: SNAP – Georgia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Mr. Cagle:

This is in response to the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services' request to extend and modify waiver number 2150036, which would allow Georgia to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in a total of 152 counties from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016.

The Georgia State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in the 152 contiguous counties based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State demonstrates that the combined area's aggregate average unemployment rate reached 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month period. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 152 requested counties for 12 months, effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. The attached response lists all 152 counties and details the terms and conditions of the waiver approval. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Caskey at robert.caskey@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150036
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Georgia
5. **Region:** Southeast
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 at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating 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 Georgia Division of Family and Children Services has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in 152 counties from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The Georgia State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in the 152 contiguous counties based upon the combined area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 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 table that follows, the 152 counties qualify based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average from May 2013 through April 2014.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through April 2015*		
152 County Group	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Clayton	3,250,424	311,392
Rockdale	1,098,464	89,066
Fulton	13,282,052	974,724
Douglas	1,754,635	134,269
Henry	2,696,350	201,520
Burke	244,044	25,492
Columbia	1,699,963	101,800
Glascok	33,202	2,868
Hancock	68,245	8,601
Jefferson	173,666	21,131
Jenkins	85,471	9,145
Lincoln	89,202	7,680
McDuffie	233,627	23,651
Richmond	2,235,257	198,048
Taliaferro	15,422	1,692
Warren	70,524	7,233
Washington	196,057	16,967
Wilkes	97,526	9,532
Bulloch	892,196	68,073
Glynn	976,024	75,269
Liberty	672,695	53,588
McIntosh	153,332	12,710
Screven	142,286	14,895
Camden	565,301	39,595
Long	172,465	12,675
Franklin	240,044	20,489
Hart	269,249	21,597
Rabun	172,514	14,929
Lumpkin	394,500	26,431
Stephens	293,458	23,175
Towns	105,971	9,617
Union	243,793	16,346
Appling	225,463	21,050
Bleckley	120,749	14,506
Candler	131,660	9,725
Dodge	196,752	20,435
Emanuel	224,065	25,042
Evans	122,530	8,195
Jeff Davis	166,498	14,535
Johnson	102,580	9,188

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through April 2015*		
152 County Group	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Laurens	495,344	48,123
Montgomery	102,556	10,642
Tattnall	248,642	18,700
Telfair	135,628	14,233
Toombs	324,752	32,996
Treutlen	72,588	8,004
Wayne	310,505	28,263
Wheeler	48,937	5,994
Wilcox	73,828	7,220
Baldwin	478,664	43,533
Bibb	1,803,948	149,080
Peach	303,768	29,887
Pulaski	107,578	8,793
Putnam	210,487	19,704
Twiggs	79,891	9,513
Wilkinson	96,645	8,760
Crawford	147,221	11,396
Houston	1,719,925	119,912
Jones	353,115	23,136
Monroe	330,091	23,000
Elbert	212,753	19,634
Newton	1,250,134	106,119
Greene	165,038	14,261
Jasper	169,640	11,858
Morgan	217,962	14,917
Clarke	1,501,550	105,191
Oglethorpe	175,207	11,448
Murray	414,406	40,645
Whitfield	1,165,634	96,474
Chattooga	272,612	21,815
Gordon	675,839	52,137
Floyd	1,129,132	93,030
Gilmer	309,209	23,722
Haralson	311,144	25,086
Fannin	253,686	20,298
Bartow	1,223,886	90,833
Polk	476,787	37,938
Pickens	359,286	24,478
Walker	770,669	55,452
Dade	208,658	13,699

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through April 2015*		
152 County Group	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Paulding	1,946,888	124,259
Catoosa	811,279	50,649
Chattahoochee	63,202	6,407
Clay	24,025	2,674
Crisp	246,918	23,870
Dooly	119,253	12,213
Harris	407,343	25,121
Macon	122,709	14,927
Marion	88,535	6,992
Muscogee	2,129,891	184,291
Quitman	23,174	1,912
Randolph	70,666	6,824
Schley	55,553	4,466
Stewart	57,635	4,695
Sumter	349,691	34,753
Talbot	73,909	6,145
Taylor	77,969	8,295
Webster	26,489	2,228
Atkinson	93,494	7,469
Bacon	124,887	9,040
Ben Hill	146,465	15,904
Berrien	187,546	16,880
Brantley	180,815	17,080
Brooks	175,046	13,142
Charlton	126,388	10,039
Clinch	72,891	6,289
Coffee	456,386	39,688
Cook	192,357	16,059
Echols	47,153	2,727
Irwin	83,769	8,448
Lanier	99,658	7,853
Lowndes	1,322,121	96,958
Pierce	209,357	16,087
Tift	475,834	36,147
Turner	84,392	6,983
Ware	386,201	32,277
Calhoun	55,241	4,264
Decatur	297,177	25,401
Dougherty	1,013,994	96,217
Colquitt	528,607	44,039

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through April 2015*		
152 County Group	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Mitchell	229,414	18,400
Terrell	93,443	7,994
Seminole	81,280	7,816
Worth	236,505	18,992
Baker	29,552	2,681
Early	111,544	9,691
Thomas	451,029	37,948
Grady	270,655	19,670
Lee	366,701	23,390
Miller	69,149	4,502
Butts	265,052	21,149
Carroll	1,349,862	114,353
Coweta	1,722,512	109,430
Heard	130,459	10,686
Lamar	202,741	19,967
Meriwether	230,546	22,835
Pike	216,046	15,622
Spalding	719,515	71,470
Troup	942,234	72,572
Upson	298,251	27,342
Cherokee	3,030,017	170,494
Forsyth	2,528,810	135,870
Banks	209,658	14,259
Madison	334,412	21,986
Barrow	905,065	58,662
Bryan	401,890	26,500
Chatham	3,420,784	252,504
Dawson	281,002	17,648
DeKalb	9,611,129	720,357
Effingham	682,331	43,085
Fayette	1,400,036	87,529
Habersham	493,404	35,093
Combined Area Total	96,985,537	7,447,009
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.7%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold	7.7%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 25, 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 all 152 counties 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:** The 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 an extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Georgia State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** OCT 13 2015
15. **Date of State agency's request:** July 7, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 24, 2015
17. **Implementation date:** January 1, 2016
18. **State agency contact:**
Ann Carter
Ann.Carter@dhs.ga.gov
(404) 651-8701

Kimberlin Donald
Kimberlin.Donald@dhs.ga.gov
(404) 657-3608
19. **FNS regional contacts:**
Robert Caskey
Robert.caskey@fns.usda.gov
(404) 562-7028