



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
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**AUG 24 2016**

Bobby D. Cagle

Director

Georgia Department of Family and Children Services

Two Peachtree Street, NW

Suite 19.490

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

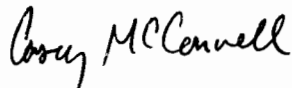
RE: SNAP – Georgia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without  
Dependents Time Limit – Approval

Dear Director Cagle:

This is in response to the Georgia State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 135 counties from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

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 Georgia to waive the time limit in the 135 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150036. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Yolaunda Daniel at [Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

  
FOR

Sasha Gersten-Paal

Chief

Certification Policy Branch

Program Development Division

RBE

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150036
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Georgia
6. **Region:** Southeast Region
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 (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) 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 Georgia State agency is requesting to waive the ABAWD time limit in 135 contiguous counties from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 135 counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.45 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following table, the combined 135 county area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 6.6 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br>May 2014 – April 2016 |              |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| County                                                                           | Unemployment | Labor Force |
| 1. Appling County, GA                                                            | 15,724       | 209,889     |
| 2. Atkinson County, GA                                                           | 5,524        | 92,031      |
| 3. Bacon County, GA                                                              | 6,970        | 120,262     |
| 4. Baker County, GA                                                              | 2,129        | 27,458      |
| 5. Baldwin County, GA                                                            | 33,818       | 422,555     |
| 6. Ben Hill County, GA                                                           | 11,983       | 129,303     |
| 7. Berrien County, GA                                                            | 12,518       | 170,258     |
| 8. Bibb County, GA                                                               | 113,891      | 1,646,353   |
| 9. Bleckley County, GA                                                           | 10,255       | 107,321     |
| 10. Brantley County, GA                                                          | 12,858       | 166,342     |
| 11. Bryan County, GA                                                             | 20,909       | 378,917     |
| 12. Bulloch County, GA                                                           | 52,678       | 836,133     |
| 13. Burke County, GA                                                             | 18,789       | 219,634     |
| 14. Butts County, GA                                                             | 16,164       | 243,375     |
| 15. Calhoun County, GA                                                           | 3,252        | 51,491      |
| 16. Camden County, GA                                                            | 30,862       | 535,740     |
| 17. Candler County, GA                                                           | 7,101        | 120,907     |
| 18. Carroll County, GA                                                           | 87,641       | 1,255,432   |
| 19. Charlton County, GA                                                          | 7,487        | 115,233     |
| 20. Chatham County, GA                                                           | 195,820      | 3,201,006   |
| 21. Chattahoochee County, GA                                                     | 4,831        | 53,070      |
| 22. Chattooga County, GA                                                         | 16,931       | 251,506     |
| 23. Cherokee County, GA                                                          | 137,777      | 2,864,816   |
| 24. Clay County, GA                                                              | 2,355        | 21,293      |
| 25. Clayton County, GA                                                           | 236,429      | 3,004,261   |
| 26. Clinch County, GA                                                            | 4,883        | 68,262      |
| 27. Coffee County, GA                                                            | 29,126       | 421,549     |
| 28. Colquitt County, GA                                                          | 32,611       | 478,022     |
| 29. Columbia County, GA                                                          | 83,464       | 1,596,675   |
| 30. Cook County, GA                                                              | 12,204       | 175,299     |
| 31. Crawford County, GA                                                          | 8,656        | 134,636     |
| 32. Crisp County, GA                                                             | 16,489       | 224,659     |
| 33. Dawson County, GA                                                            | 13,792       | 261,961     |
| 34. Decatur County, GA                                                           | 19,584       | 272,871     |
| 35. DeKalb County, GA                                                            | 556,803      | 8,920,986   |
| 36. Dodge County, GA                                                             | 14,930       | 170,798     |
| 37. Dooly County, GA                                                             | 8,969        | 114,734     |
| 38. Dougherty County, GA                                                         | 73,554       | 916,291     |
| 39. Douglas County, GA                                                           | 105,714      | 1,638,034   |
| 40. Early County, GA                                                             | 8,098        | 105,334     |
| 41. Echols County, GA                                                            | 2,166        | 43,969      |
| 42. Effingham County, GA                                                         | 34,172       | 640,948     |
| 43. Elbert County, GA                                                            | 14,192       | 185,689     |
| 44. Emanuel County, GA                                                           | 18,276       | 202,915     |
| 45. Evans County, GA                                                             | 6,482        | 113,176     |

|                           |         |            |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|
| 46. Fannin County, GA     | 15,507  | 241,370    |
| 47. Floyd County, GA      | 70,965  | 1,030,099  |
| 48. Franklin County, GA   | 14,918  | 221,724    |
| 49. Fulton County, GA     | 758,163 | 12,340,079 |
| 50. Gilmer County, GA     | 17,560  | 282,849    |
| 51. Glascock County, GA   | 2,070   | 29,929     |
| 52. Glynn County, GA      | 56,585  | 894,986    |
| 53. Grady County, GA      | 15,820  | 250,875    |
| 54. Greene County, GA     | 11,112  | 153,546    |
| 55. Habersham County, GA  | 27,035  | 454,338    |
| 56. Hancock County, GA    | 6,049   | 58,501     |
| 57. Haralson County, GA   | 19,227  | 286,516    |
| 58. Harris County, GA     | 20,396  | 373,368    |
| 59. Hart County, GA       | 16,075  | 248,641    |
| 60. Henry County, GA      | 158,363 | 2,508,580  |
| 61. Houston County, GA    | 95,414  | 1,569,681  |
| 62. Irwin County, GA      | 6,350   | 74,442     |
| 63. Jasper County, GA     | 8,791   | 154,229    |
| 64. Jeff Davis County, GA | 10,547  | 153,555    |
| 65. Jefferson County, GA  | 14,520  | 154,706    |
| 66. Jenkins County, GA    | 6,672   | 76,301     |
| 67. Johnson County, GA    | 6,830   | 93,052     |
| 68. Jones County, GA      | 18,283  | 328,671    |
| 69. Lamar County, GA      | 14,998  | 187,184    |
| 70. Lanier County, GA     | 6,333   | 90,877     |
| 71. Laurens County, GA    | 35,649  | 447,753    |
| 72. Lee County, GA        | 18,574  | 337,259    |
| 73. Liberty County, GA    | 40,491  | 610,257    |
| 74. Lincoln County, GA    | 5,612   | 80,314     |
| 75. Long County, GA       | 10,072  | 160,424    |
| 76. Lumpkin County, GA    | 20,438  | 364,843    |
| 77. Macon County, GA      | 10,751  | 112,781    |
| 78. Marion County, GA     | 6,588   | 82,878     |
| 79. McDuffie County, GA   | 18,148  | 209,904    |
| 80. McIntosh County, GA   | 9,595   | 142,759    |
| 81. Meriwether County, GA | 17,358  | 210,892    |
| 82. Miller County, GA     | 3,777   | 64,804     |
| 83. Mitchell County, GA   | 14,718  | 211,172    |
| 84. Monroe County, GA     | 17,946  | 305,328    |
| 85. Montgomery County, GA | 7,988   | 90,860     |
| 86. Morgan County, GA     | 11,551  | 203,508    |
| 87. Murray County, GA     | 30,281  | 380,766    |
| 88. Muscogee County, GA   | 145,806 | 1,908,017  |
| 89. Newton County, GA     | 80,820  | 1,158,255  |
| 90. Peach County, GA      | 22,540  | 273,505    |
| 91. Pickens County, GA    | 18,655  | 334,247    |
| 92. Pierce County, GA     | 12,429  | 195,055    |
| 93. Pike County, GA       | 11,716  | 198,287    |
| 94. Polk County, GA       | 29,834  | 434,195    |
| 95. Pulaski County, GA    | 6,614   | 97,136     |

|                                             |                  |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 96. Putnam County, GA                       | 15,279           | 187,798           |
| 97. Quitman County, GA                      | 1,485            | 20,383            |
| 98. Rabun County, GA                        | 10,887           | 156,923           |
| 99. Randolph County, GA                     | 5,575            | 60,749            |
| 100. Richmond County, GA                    | 154,355          | 2,023,633         |
| 101. Rockdale County, GA                    | 68,067           | 1,015,363         |
| 102. Schley County, GA                      | 3,502            | 50,761            |
| 103. Screven County, GA                     | 10,816           | 124,404           |
| 104. Seminole County, GA                    | 6,411            | 75,087            |
| 105. Spalding County, GA                    | 53,392           | 657,914           |
| 106. Stephens County, GA                    | 17,579           | 260,365           |
| 107. Stewart County, GA                     | 3,495            | 51,501            |
| 108. Sumter County, GA                      | 26,600           | 313,210           |
| 109. Talbot County, GA                      | 4,894            | 65,660            |
| 110. Taliaferro County, GA                  | 1,229            | 14,021            |
| 111. Tattnall County, GA                    | 13,876           | 226,249           |
| 112. Taylor County, GA                      | 6,268            | 66,653            |
| 113. Telfair County, GA                     | 10,715           | 120,079           |
| 114. Terrell County, GA                     | 6,399            | 86,599            |
| 115. Thomas County, GA                      | 30,366           | 405,779           |
| 116. Tift County, GA                        | 27,850           | 435,371           |
| 117. Toombs County, GA                      | 25,534           | 289,545           |
| 118. Towns County, GA                       | 7,715            | 95,398            |
| 119. Treutlen County, GA                    | 5,869            | 66,090            |
| 120. Turner County, GA                      | 5,392            | 78,188            |
| 121. Twiggs County, GA                      | 6,896            | 71,365            |
| 122. Union County, GA                       | 12,908           | 233,928           |
| 123. Upson County, GA                       | 20,048           | 268,119           |
| 124. Ware County, GA                        | 23,796           | 355,144           |
| 125. Warren County, GA                      | 5,248            | 64,047            |
| 126. Washington County, GA                  | 12,590           | 176,423           |
| 127. Wayne County, GA                       | 21,206           | 276,614           |
| 128. Webster County, GA                     | 2,059            | 23,838            |
| 129. Wheeler County, GA                     | 4,680            | 42,303            |
| 130. White County, GA                       | 17,791           | 331,830           |
| 131. Whitfield County, GA                   | 72,833           | 1,075,403         |
| 132. Wilcox County, GA                      | 5,357            | 66,737            |
| 133. Wilkes County, GA                      | 6,979            | 89,457            |
| 134. Wilkinson County, GA                   | 6,658            | 87,019            |
| 135. Worth County, GA                       | 14,317           | 213,569           |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>4,892,311</b> | <b>74,128,211</b> |
| <b>Combined Area Unemployment Rate</b>      | <b>6.6%</b>      |                   |
| <b>20% Above National Average Threshold</b> | <b>6.5%</b>      |                   |

\*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on July 21, 2016.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Georgia State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 135 county area because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 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 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.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
- 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:** AUG 24 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** July 18, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 18, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**  
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- 18. FNS Regional Contact:**  
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