



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: November 29, 2018

Jon Anderson
Chief Deputy Division Director
Division of Family and Children Services
Georgia Department of Human Services
2 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Georgia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is in response to the Georgia State agency's request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 135 counties.

Georgia is currently approved to waive the time limit in 66 counties through December 31, 2018. On October 16, 2018, the State agency requested a new waiver for 135 counties effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Then, on November 16, 2018, the State agency requested that the new waiver be effective November 1, 2018, replacing the State's current waiver before it expires.

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 approves the State to waive the time limit in the requested 135 counties. However, FNS does not approve the requested start date of November 1, 2018. Instead, FNS approves the waiver effective from November 16, 2018 (the date the request was made by the State) through October 31, 2019.

FNS understands that the State agency is in the process of modifying its eligibility system and infrastructure, including modifications aimed at addressing flaws in its ability to accurately track ABAWDs. The State has shared that once these modifications are completed, it plans to end the ABAWD time limit waiver in all counties in the State. The State has discretion to modify its waiver to reduce the number of waived areas as described at any time, but the State must inform FNS of its plan to do so, including where and when, prior to making such a change. Until then, the State must apply the waiver in-line with the FNS waiver approval.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Gentin Paal". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2150036
2. **Request Type:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Georgia
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southeast
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 Georgia State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 135 contiguous counties. The State agency has grouped the counties for consideration as a combined area, and has supported its request based upon the combined area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State agency selected March 2016 through February 2018 for these areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.4 percent. As shown in the following table, the aggregate unemployment rate for the requested area was 5.4 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

Counties
1. Appling County
2. Atkinson County
3. Bacon County
4. Baker County
5. Baldwin County
6. Bartow County
7. Ben Hill County
8. Berrien County

Counties
9. Bibb County
10. Bleckley County
11. Brantley County
12. Brooks County
13. Bryan County
14. Bulloch County
15. Burke County
16. Butts County
17. Calhoun County
18. Camden County
19. Candler County
20. Carroll County
21. Charlton County
22. Chatham County
23. Chattahoochee County
24. Chattooga County
25. Clay County
26. Clayton County
27. Clinch County
28. Coffee County
29. Colquitt County
30. Cook County
31. Crawford County
32. Crisp County
33. Dade County
34. Decatur County
35. DeKalb County
36. Dodge County
37. Dooly County
38. Dougherty County
39. Douglas County
40. Early County
41. Echols County
42. Effingham County
43. Elbert County
44. Emanuel County
45. Evans County
46. Fannin County
47. Floyd County
48. Franklin County
49. Fulton County
50. Gilmer County

Counties
51. Glascock County
52. Glynn County
53. Gordon County
54. Grady County
55. Greene County
56. Habersham County
57. Hancock County
58. Haralson County
59. Hart County
60. Heard County
61. Henry County
62. Houston County
63. Irwin County
64. Jeff Davis County
65. Jefferson County
66. Jenkins County
67. Johnson County
68. Lamar County
69. Lanier County
70. Laurens County
71. Lee County
72. Liberty County
73. Lincoln County
74. Long County
75. Lowndes County
76. Macon County
77. Marion County
78. McDuffie County
79. McIntosh County
80. Meriwether County
81. Miller County
82. Mitchell County
83. Monroe County
84. Montgomery County
85. Morgan County
86. Murray County
87. Muscogee County
88. Newton County
89. Oglethorpe County
90. Peach County
91. Pierce County
92. Pike County

Counties	
93.	Polk County
94.	Pulaski County
95.	Putnam County
96.	Quitman County
97.	Rabun County
98.	Randolph County
99.	Richmond County
100.	Rockdale County
101.	Schley County
102.	Screven County
103.	Seminole County
104.	Spalding County
105.	Stephens County
106.	Stewart County
107.	Sumter County
108.	Talbot County
109.	Taliaferro County
110.	Tattnall County
111.	Taylor County
112.	Telfair County
113.	Terrell County
114.	Thomas County
115.	Tift County
116.	Toombs County
117.	Towns County
118.	Treutlen County
119.	Troup County
120.	Turner County
121.	Twiggs County
122.	Upson County
123.	Walker County
124.	Walton County
125.	Ware County
126.	Warren County
127.	Washington County
128.	Wayne County
129.	Webster County
130.	Wheeler County
131.	Whitfield County
132.	Wilcox County
133.	Wilkes County
134.	Wilkinson County

Counties	
135.	Worth County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.4%	
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on October 18, 2018	

- 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:** November 16, 2018
- 12. Expiration Date:** October 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.
- 14. State Agency Contact Information:**
- Name: Kimberlin Donald
Phone Number: (404) 657-3608
Email: kimberlin.donald@dhs.ga.gov
- Name: Tatrina Young
Phone Number: (404) 463-0877
Email: tatrina.young@dhs.ga.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
- Name: Yolaunda Daniel
Phone Number: (404) 562-1815
Email: yolaunda.daniel@fns.usda.gov