



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park
Office
Center

3101 Park
Center
Drive

Alexandria
VA, 22302

Date: October 31, 2019

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 – Revised

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is in response to the Georgia State agency's October 30, 2019, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 114 areas from November 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020.

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 to waive the time limit for a six-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.

As you may be aware, FNS has proposed regulations that would strengthen the standards by which areas can qualify for these waivers so that the statutory ABAWD work requirement is applied more broadly. The rule, once finalized, could change the qualifying areas and approval period for this waiver.

FNS also reminds the State agency 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-of the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit.

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,

Miles Patrie
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2150036
2. **Request Type:** Extension and Modification
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 requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 114 contiguous counties for a 6-month period, from November 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020. The State agency supported its request based upon these areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2017 through December 2018. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.1 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.9 percent. The unemployment rate for the 114 county combined area was 4.9 percent during the same time period (areas listed below in Table 1).

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2017 through December 2018)

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

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

Counties
49. Heard County
50. Henry County
51. Irwin County
52. Jeff Davis County
53. Jefferson County
54. Jenkins County
55. Johnson County
56. Lamar County
57. Lanier County
58. Laurens County
59. Liberty County
60. Lincoln County
61. Long County
62. Macon County
63. Marion County
64. McDuffie County
65. McIntosh County
66. Meriwether County
67. Miller County
68. Mitchell County
69. Monroe County
70. Montgomery County
71. Morgan County
72. Murray County
73. Muscogee County
74. Newton County
75. Oglethorpe County
76. Peach County
77. Polk County
78. Pulaski County
79. Putnam County
80. Quitman County
81. Rabun County
82. Randolph County
83. Richmond County
84. Rockdale County
85. Schley County
86. Screven County
87. Seminole County
88. Spalding County

Counties
89. Stephens County
90. Stewart County
91. Sumter County
92. Talbot County
93. Taliaferro County
94. Tattnall County
95. Taylor County
96. Telfair County
97. Terrell County
98. Thomas County
99. Toombs County
100. Towns County
101. Treutlen County
102. Turner County
103. Twiggs County
104. Upson County
105. Warren County
106. Washington County
107. Wayne County
108. Webster County
109. Wheeler County
110. Whitfield County
111. Wilcox County
112. Wilkes County
113. Wilkinson County
114. Worth County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.9%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on August 9, 2019

- 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 1, 2019
- 12. Expiration Date:** April 30, 2020
- 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: Tatrina Young
 - Phone Number: (404) 463-0877
 - Email: tatrina.young@dhs.ga.gov

 - Name: Kimberlin Donald
 - Phone Number: (404) 657-3608
 - Email: kimberlin.donald@dhs.ga.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
 - Name: Yolaunda Daniel
 - Phone Number: (404) 562-1815
 - Email: yolaunda.daniel@usda.gov