



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

May 23, 2023

John Hallman
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Family Independence
Georgia Department of Human Services
2 Peachtree Street N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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

Dear Deputy Commissioner Hallman:

This is in response to the Georgia Department of Humans Services' May 15, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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.

The Food and Nutrition Service (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 the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

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:** Georgia
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southeast
- 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 waive the ABAWD time limit in 23 counties from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request for a combined area of 18 contiguous counties based upon the area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2020 through November 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 5.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 1).

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Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 – November 2022)

Counties
1. Baker County, GA
2. Ben Hill County, GA
3. Clay County, GA
4. Crisp County, GA
5. Dooly County, GA
6. Dougherty County, GA
7. Macon County, GA
8. Randolph County, GA
9. Schley County, GA
10. Sumter County, GA
11. Talbot County, GA
12. Taylor County, GA
13. Telfair County, GA
14. Terrell County, GA
15. Treutlen County, GA
16. Turner County, GA
17. Wheeler County, GA
18. Wilcox County, GA
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.5%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 18, 2023

The State agency supported its request for a combined area of 2 contiguous counties based upon the area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2021 through February 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.3 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.1 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 5.2 percent during the 24-month period (Table 2).

Table 2: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, March 2021 – February 2023)

Counties
1. Hancock County, GA
2. Taliaferro County, GA
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 18, 2023

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The State agency supported its request for a combined area of 3 contiguous counties based upon the area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2021 through February 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.3 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.1 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 5.1 percent during the 24-month period (Table 3).

Table 3: Combined Area 3 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, March 2021 – February 2023)

Counties
1. Burke County, GA
2. Jenkins County, GA
3. Screven County, GA
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.1%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 18, 2023

8. **FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
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:** July 1, 2023
11. **Expiration Date:** June 30, 2024
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:**
Name: Pamela Mack
Email: Pamela.Mack@dhs.ga.gov
14. **FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
Name: Gwen Daniels
Phone: (404) 562-7107
Email: Gwen.Daniels@usda.gov