



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
Center

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Center Drive  
Alexandria  
VA 22302

MAY 25 2017

James W. Gillan  
Director  
Department of Public Health and Social Services  
123 Chalan Kareta  
Mangilao, Guam 96913-6304

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

Dear Mr. Gillan:

This is in response to the Guam State agency request waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the Territory from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2019.

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 Guam to waive the time limit throughout the Territory for the requested 24-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2140024. The attached waiver response includes the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. If you have questions, please contact Jodi Schroeder at [Jodi.Schroeder@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Jodi.Schroeder@fns.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2140024
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Guam
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and 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 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 in an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** Guam has requested an extension of its waiver of the ABAWD time limit throughout the Territory for the 24-month period of October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2019. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect unemployment data for Guam. Labor data is derived from sample surveys of households conducted by the Guam Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (Guam BLS). These are periodic surveys, usually conducted on a quarterly basis, where field interviews are conducted inquiring about activity or status during the calendar week. The State agency has supported its request based upon the Territory having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 3-year period of September 2013 through September 2016. This is the most recent Guam BLS data available. During this 3-year period the national average unemployment rate was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.8 percent. As detailed in the following table, Guam's average unemployment rate for the selected 3-year period was 6.8 percent.

| <b>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Guam Bureau of Labor Statistics Data<br/>September 2013 – September 2016</b> |                   |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                                                                     | Labor Force Total | Unemployment Total |
| Guam                                                                                                                | <b>927,450</b>    | <b>63,100</b>      |
| Unemployment Rate                                                                                                   | <b>6.8%</b>       |                    |
| 20% Above National<br>Average Unemployment<br>Rate Threshold                                                        | <b>6.8%</b>       |                    |

\*Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and [http://bls.guam.gov/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/202\\_UNEMPHISTORICALTABLE\\_1974-2016\\_MAR2017.PDF](http://bls.guam.gov/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/202_UNEMPHISTORICALTABLE_1974-2016_MAR2017.PDF) on April 12, 2017.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Guam State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the Territory because the Territory meets 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 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 and expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2019.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on Regional Office (RO) approval of the requests:** The waiver is limited to the Guam State agency.
- 14. Date of National Office action:** **MAY 25 2017**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** February 23, 2017
- 16. Date of RO transmittal of request:** April 5, 2017
- 17. State agency contact:**  
Ms. Ma. Theresa L. Arcangel  
(671) 735-7300  
Theresa.Arcangel@dphss.guam.gov

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**18. FNS Regional contacts:**

Jodi Schroeder

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