



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: September 16, 2019

Linda Unpingco DeNorcey
Acting Director
Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services
123 Chalan Kareta
Mangilao, Guam 96913-6304

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Guam Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Extension – Denial

Dear Ms. Unpingco DeNorcey:

This is in response to the Guam State agency's January 9, 2019, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents beginning October 1, 2019.

The Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services requested to waive the SNAP time limit for ABAWDs throughout the Territory. The State agency requested to waive the time limit based on an unemployment rate that is 20 percent or more above the national average. FNS carefully examined the data provided by the State agency and found that the Territory's average unemployment rate for the allowable 24-month period was not at least 20 percent above the national average for the same recent 24-month period.

The State agency's request does not meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is denying the State's request to waive the time limit as requested.

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.

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. FNS will continue to work with the State agency as it implements 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. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Acting Director
Program Development Division