



United States Department of Agriculture

OCT 20 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Julie A. Hammon
Administrator, Division of Welfare
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
450 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036

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

Dear Ms. Hammon:

This is in response to the Idaho State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 16 counties and 4 reservation areas from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.

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 Idaho to waive the time limit in the 16 counties and 4 reservation areas for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150040. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150040
2. **Type of request:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Region:** Western
7. **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 (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.

Proposed alternative procedures: The Idaho State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 16 counties and 4 reservations from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. The State agency has grouped 16 counties for consideration as a combined area and has supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. In addition, the State agency has supported its request for 4 reservation areas based upon each individual area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State agency selected the same 24-month period – April 2015 through March 2017 – for the 16 counties and 4 reservation areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.95 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached 5.9 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017*		
Combined Area	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
1. Adams County	2,978	41,726
2. Benewah County	6,185	96,938
3. Boise County	4,338	74,921
4. Bonner County	24,888	449,956
5. Boundary County	6,599	122,100
6. Butte County	1,284	31,146
7. Clark County	331	9,520
8. Clearwater County	5,757	73,774
9. Custer County	2,853	51,225
10. Gem County	9,052	184,698
11. Idaho County	9,049	153,837
12. Lemhi County	5,296	81,399
13. Lewis County	2,443	38,570
14. Shoshone County	9,129	122,415
15. Valley County	6,621	117,169
16. Washington County	6,282	109,637
Total for Region	103,085	1,759,031
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 19, 2017

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data April 2015 through March 2017*	
Reservation	Unemployment Rate
1. Coeur d'Alene Reservation	7.3%
2. Duck Valley Reservation	26.0%
3. Fort Hall Reservation	11.0%
4. Nez Perce Reservation	7.7%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on September 19, 2017.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Idaho State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 16 counties and 4 reservation areas because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **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).
10. **Information required for an 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.
11. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.
12. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Idaho State agency.
13. **Date of National Office action:** OCT 20 2017
14. **Date of State agency's request:** August 25, 2017
15. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 25, 2017
16. **State agency contact:**
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17. **FNS regional contacts:**
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