



SEP 29 2016

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Ms. Lori A. Wolff
Administrator, Division of Welfare
450 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

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

Dear Ms. Wolff:

This is in response to the Idaho State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 15 counties and 4 reservations from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

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 for the 15 counties and 4 reservations 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 Heidi Mayberry at Heidi.Mayberry@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sasha Gersten-Paal".

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150040
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
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, provides 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) also provides 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Idaho State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 15 contiguous counties and 4 reservation areas from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 15 county combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.45 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following table, the 15 county combined area's aggregate unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 6.5 percent. In addition, the State agency has supported its request for four reservation areas based upon each individual area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The State agency selected the same 24-month period – May 2014 through April 2016 – for the four reservation areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.45 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached 6.5 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2014 through April 2016		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	3,338	41,013
Benewah County	6,526	96,650
Boise County	4,434	71,717
Bonner County	27,415	442,194
Boundary County	6,682	120,444
Butte County	1,453	31,919
Clark County	365	10,093
Clearwater County	6,054	74,668
Custer County	3,279	51,560
Idaho County	9,622	153,822
Lemhi County	5,703	80,677
Lewis County	2,266	38,774
Shoshone County	10,100	124,098
Valley County	7,114	113,216
Washington County	6,502	109,672
Combined Area Total	100,853	1,560,517
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.5%	

May 2014 through April 2016			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Benewah County (part); Idaho (part); Coeur d'Alene Reservation, ID	3,195	47,996	6.7%
Kootenai County (part); Idaho (part); Coeur d'Alene Reservation, ID	2,044	27,441	7.4%
Coeur d'Alene Reservation	5,240	75,437	6.9%

Owyhee County (part); Idaho (part); Duck Valley Reservation, NV--ID	518	2,654	19.5%
Duck Valley Reservation	518	2,654	19.5%

Bannock County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	2,653	26,029	10.2%
Bingham County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	3,635	28,005	13.0%
Caribou County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	0	0	-
Power County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	539	10,116	5.3%
Fort Hall Reservation	6,826	64,150	10.6%

Clearwater County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	4,250	48,100	8.8%
Idaho County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	2,453	38,138	6.4%
Lewis County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	2,244	38,751	5.8%
Nez Perce County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	4,177	53,578	7.8%
Nez Perce Reservation	13,124	178,567	7.3%

9. 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 15 counties and 4 reservations, because the counties meet 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 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 as supporting documentation.

12. Implementation date and expiration date: The waiver is effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

13. Limitation, if any, on Regional Office approval of like requests: The waiver is limited to the Idaho State agency.

14. Date of National Office action: SEP 29 2016

15. Date of State agency's request: August 8, 2016

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16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request: August 17, 2016

17. State agency contact:

Kristen Matthews

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18. FNS Regional contact:

Heidi Mayberry

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