



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: November 9, 2018

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

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 July 18, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 10 counties and 3 reservation areas from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 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 the State to waive the time limit for a 12-month period in these areas, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. 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.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2150040
2. **Request Type:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Idaho
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
7. **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.
8. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Idaho State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 10 counties and 3 reservations from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has grouped the 10 contiguous counties together, and has supported its request based the group having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. As shown in the following table, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested area was 5.5 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, January 2016 through December 2017)

Counties	
1.	Adams County
2.	Benewah County
3.	Bonner County
4.	Boundary County
5.	Clearwater County
6.	Idaho County
7.	Lemhi County
8.	Lewis County

Counties
9. Shoshone County
10. Washington County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.5%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on October 11, 2018

The State agency has supported its request for the 3 reservation areas based upon each individual area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. As shown in the following table, the unemployment rate for each requested reservation area was at least 20 percent above the national average during the selected time period.

Table 2: Reservation Areas (American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data January 2016 through December 2017)

Reservation	Unemployment Rate
1. Duck Valley Reservation	18.0%
2. Fort Hall Reservation	10.7%
3. Nez Perce Reservation	6.8%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and http://factfinder.census.gov on October 26, 2018.	

9. **FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
10. **Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
11. **Implementation Date:** January 1, 2019
12. **Expiration Date:** December 31, 2019
13. **Information Required for Amendment or 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.

14. State Agency Contact Information:

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15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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