



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
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NOV 19 2014

Jan Freeman
Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Bureau of Policy Development
Illinois Department of Human Services
100 South Grand Avenue, East
Springfield, Illinois 62762

RE: SNAP – Illinois Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limits - Extension - Approval

Dear Ms. Freeman:

This is in response to the Illinois Department of Human Services' request for an extension of its waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) throughout the State from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

The Illinois State agency has requested a three-month extension of its current statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit. Illinois' current waiver is effective through September 30, 2015. Illinois has supported its extension request based upon the State's qualification for extended unemployment benefits, a criteria for waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. The State has provided a copy the Department of Labor's Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) trigger notice 2013-49, effective December 22, 2013, showing that Illinois qualified for EUC, an extended unemployment benefit program. Following longstanding Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) policy, States can qualify for a 12-month Statewide waiver for up to 12 months after the trigger date. Based upon EUC trigger notice 2013-49, Illinois is eligible for a Statewide ABAWD waiver from December 2014 through December 2015, which would extend the State's current waiver of the ABAWD time limit by three months.

FNS is approving Illinois' request to extend its waiver of the ABAWD time limit by three months, from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Please note that FNS has assigned waiver number 2150013 to this extension approval for tracking purposes. The detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Bax at Dana.Bax@fns.usda.gov.

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150013
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Illinois
5. **Region:** Midwest
6. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal 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 requirements. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii), a State can qualify for a 12-month statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can approve a waiver if the State qualifies for extended benefits, regardless of whether the State has elected the option to offer the benefit itself. States that meet the extended benefit criteria can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver up to 12 months after the trigger date.
7. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The State of Illinois is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** FNS is approving the Illinois State agency's request to waive ABAWD time limits because the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii). Illinois qualified for extended unemployment benefits through the Department of Labor's Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) trigger notice 2013-49, effective December 22, 2013.

9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(ii).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** This waiver extension is effective October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Illinois Department of Human Services.
14. **Date of national office action:** NOV 19 2014
15. **Date of State agency's request:** October 30, 2014
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** November 6, 2014
17. **Implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** October 1, 2015
18. **State agency contact:**
Jan Freeman
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(217) 782-1239
19. **FNS regional contact:**
Dana Bax
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(312) 886-5768