



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: December 21, 2018

Diane Grigsby Jackson
SNAP Director
Illinois Department of Family and Community Services
100 South Grand Avenue, East
Springfield, Illinois 62762

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Illinois Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. Grigsby Jackson:

This is in response to the Illinois State agency's November 15, 2019, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 101 counties 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 in the areas for a 12-month period, as requested. The waiver will effectively include all areas in the State with the exception of DuPage County. 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.

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 has proposed that the rule, once finalized, would go into effect on October 1, 2019, which is the beginning of federal fiscal year 2020. Therefore, the final rule could change the qualifying areas and approval period for this waiver.

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.

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:** 2150013
2. **Request Type:** Extension
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Illinois
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Midwest
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 Illinois State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 101 contiguous counties from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has grouped the counties for consideration 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. The State agency selected January 2016 through December 2017 for the area. 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 tables, the average unemployment rate 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. Alexander County
3. Bond County
4. Boone County
5. Brown County
6. Bureau County
7. Calhoun County
8. Carroll County
9. Cass County
10. Champaign County
11. Christian County

Counties
12. Clark County
13. Clay County
14. Clinton County
15. Coles County
16. Cook County
17. Crawford County
18. Cumberland County
19. De Witt County
20. DeKalb County
21. Douglas County
22. Edgar County
23. Edwards County
24. Effingham County
25. Fayette County
26. Ford County
27. Franklin County
28. Fulton County
29. Gallatin County
30. Greene County
31. Grundy County
32. Hamilton County
33. Hancock County
34. Hardin County
35. Henderson County
36. Henry County
37. Iroquois County
38. Jackson County
39. Jasper County
40. Jefferson County
41. Jersey County
42. Jo Daviess County
43. Johnson County
44. Kane County
45. Kankakee County
46. Kendall County
47. Knox County
48. Lake County
49. LaSalle County
50. Lawrence County
51. Lee County
52. Livingston County
53. Logan County
54. Macon County
55. Macoupin County
56. Madison County
57. Marion County
58. Marshall County

Counties	
59. Mason County	
60. Massac County	
61. McDonough County	
62. McHenry County	
63. McLean County	
64. Menard County	
65. Mercer County	
66. Monroe County	
67. Montgomery County	
68. Morgan County	
69. Moultrie County	
70. Ogle County	
71. Peoria County	
72. Perry County	
73. Piatt County	
74. Pike County	
75. Pope County	
76. Pulaski County	
77. Putnam County	
78. Randolph County	
79. Richland County	
80. Rock Island County	
81. Saline County	
82. Sangamon County	
83. Schuyler County	
84. Scott County	
85. Shelby County	
86. St. Clair County	
87. Stark County	
88. Stephenson County	
89. Tazewell County	
90. Union County	
91. Vermilion County	
92. Wabash County	
93. Warren County	
94. Washington County	
95. Wayne County	
96. White County	
97. Whiteside County	
98. Will County	
99. Williamson County	
100. Winnebago County	
101. Woodford County	
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.5%	
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on November 27, 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:**

Name: Beverly Templeton
Phone Number: 217-524-9156
Email: Beverly.Templeton@illinois.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**

Name: April Moss
Phone Number: 312-353-1608
Email: April.Moss@usda.gov