



DEC 12 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Adria Johnson
Commissioner
Department for Community Based Services
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621

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

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

This is in response to the Kentucky State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in 100 contiguous counties 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 Kentucky to waive the time limit in the 100 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150037.

The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Yolaunda Daniel at Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding ABAWD time limit waivers. 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

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150037
2. **Type of request:** 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:** Kentucky
6. **Region:** Southeast
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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Kentucky State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 100 contiguous counties from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. The State agency grouped the 100 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 the 24-month period of September 2015 through August 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.75 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.7 percent. As detailed in the following table, the aggregate unemployment rate for the combined area was 6.0 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data September 2015 through August 2017*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
1. Adair	11,048	163,101
2. Allen	9,203	213,135
3. Ballard	7,254	88,548
4. Barren	21,838	456,452
5. Bath	8,654	114,524
6. Bell	18,540	208,304
7. Boone	63,018	1,593,181
8. Bourbon	11,535	238,345
9. Boyd	34,315	437,371
10. Boyle	15,195	294,547
11. Bracken	5,556	90,420
12. Breathitt	8,872	93,799
13. Breckinridge	11,697	190,857
14. Butler	6,922	125,327
15. Caldwell	7,095	130,433
16. Carlisle	3,972	65,284
17. Carroll	6,183	122,536
18. Carter	24,902	243,327
19. Casey	8,026	165,505
20. Christian	37,387	599,161
21. Clark	19,914	409,755
22. Clay	12,942	136,613
23. Clinton	6,819	90,731
24. Crittenden	5,175	98,316
25. Cumberland	3,914	70,151
26. Edmonson	7,257	114,963
27. Elliott	5,666	52,211
28. Estill	7,619	128,646
29. Fleming	8,950	146,023
30. Floyd	28,428	279,434
31. Fulton	3,645	49,916
32. Gallatin	4,549	93,197
33. Garrard	9,025	183,614
34. Grant	13,580	268,794
35. Graves	22,956	374,367
36. Grayson	17,009	262,998
37. Green	5,699	121,996
38. Greenup	27,484	327,785
39. Hancock	5,108	94,255
40. Harlan	19,992	171,647
41. Harrison	9,750	205,835

42. Hart	9,044	192,372
43. Hickman	3,010	48,355
44. Hopkins	25,959	480,404
45. Jackson	8,196	102,989
46. Johnson	16,258	176,561
47. Kenton	84,886	2,019,367
48. Knott	11,692	110,094
49. Knox	19,115	238,022
50. Larue	6,832	144,154
51. Laurel	35,477	572,563
52. Lawrence	12,417	123,500
53. Lee	4,423	48,194
54. Leslie	8,212	67,529
55. Letcher	17,969	157,430
56. Lewis	10,962	119,682
57. Lincoln	13,527	220,829
58. Livingston	6,587	89,320
59. Lyon	4,263	73,737
60. Madison	46,044	1,068,283
61. Magoffin	13,844	76,932
62. Marion	9,852	229,017
63. Marshall	20,960	360,339
64. Martin	7,250	74,100
65. Mason	10,882	174,942
66. McCracken	41,353	697,467
67. McCreary	8,781	114,617
68. Mclean	5,233	103,045
69. Meade	15,261	290,575
70. Meniffee	5,046	57,705
71. Mercer	11,764	239,811
72. Metcalfe	4,507	99,139
73. Monroe	4,695	113,993
74. Montgomery	18,577	286,264
75. Morgan	8,672	109,056
76. Muhlenberg	19,894	279,011
77. Nelson	24,171	522,817
78. Nicholas	4,604	81,005
79. Ohio	15,158	229,515
80. Owsley	2,623	27,465
81. Pendleton	8,043	161,605
82. Perry	20,454	206,435
83. Pike	48,797	481,653
84. Powell	8,467	120,034
85. Pulaski	34,249	613,845

86. Robertson	1,252	19,618
87. Rockcastle	9,841	161,974
88. Rowan	14,573	257,613
89. Russell	12,617	147,070
90. Scott	25,381	655,689
91. Taylor	14,758	280,438
92. Todd	5,801	132,644
93. Trigg	8,046	138,064
94. Trimble	5,024	93,917
95. Union	9,929	148,187
96. Washington	6,307	149,404
97. Wayne	13,922	180,883
98. Webster	7,986	139,890
99. Whitley	20,801	320,484
100. Wolfe	4,677	47,531
Total	1,445,618	23,992,582
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 4, 2017

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Kentucky State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 100 counties because it meets 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 and supporting documentation.
12. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Kentucky State agency.
14. **Date of National Office action:** DEC 12 2017
15. **Date of State agency's request:** December 4, 2017
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 4, 2017

17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS regional contacts:

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