



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 01 2016

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

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Kentucky Request
to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Time
Limit – Approval

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

This is in response to the Kentucky State agency's request to waive the SNAP
time limit for ABAWD in 100 counties 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 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 Gwen Daniels at Gwen.Daniels@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150037
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:** Kentucky
6. **Region:** Southeast
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 in 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, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 100 counties 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 100 county combined area's aggregate average unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 6.5 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
May 2014 – April 2016***

County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Adair	12,887	168,015
2. Allen	10,570	205,516
3. Ballard	6,619	86,169
4. Barren	24,133	436,942
5. Bath	9,013	112,657
6. Bell	19,152	216,648
7. Boone	67,372	1,536,245
8. Bourbon	11,517	231,421
9. Boyd	32,198	443,469
10. Boyle	16,945	287,167
11. Bracken	5,950	89,200
12. Breathitt	9,629	96,004
13. Breckinridge	12,085	189,943
14. Butler	7,658	121,799
15. Caldwell	7,473	128,144
16. Carlisle	3,392	55,974
17. Carroll	6,985	116,254
18. Carter	25,004	245,105
19. Casey	9,206	158,189
20. Christian	39,991	603,009
21. Clark	21,692	402,661
22. Clay	13,135	130,228
23. Clinton	7,722	93,034
24. Crittenden	5,162	90,641
25. Cumberland	4,407	69,545
26. Edmonson	8,141	112,375
27. Elliott	5,268	50,915
28. Estill	8,081	126,292
29. Fleming	9,768	149,888
30. Floyd	28,225	286,661
31. Fulton	3,885	50,675
32. Gallatin	5,126	90,682
33. Garrard	9,773	180,375
34. Grant	14,854	263,663
35. Graves	24,335	367,721
36. Grayson	18,186	254,421
37. Green	6,624	119,646
38. Greenup	26,777	331,898
39. Hancock	5,064	93,846
40. Harlan	22,954	187,786
41. Harrison	9,941	199,549

42. Hart	10,037	185,234
43. Hickman	2,940	50,500
44. Hopkins	27,861	472,810
45. Jackson	9,609	105,804
46. Johnson	16,031	184,541
47. Kenton	92,716	1,956,477
48. Knott	12,137	118,765
49. Knox	20,329	235,392
50. Larue	7,555	136,952
51. Laurel	37,456	563,299
52. Lawrence	11,766	124,118
53. Lee	4,755	53,326
54. Leslie	8,275	72,909
55. Letcher	19,078	167,675
56. Lewis	10,820	121,631
57. Lincoln	15,857	216,903
58. Livingston	6,608	87,626
59. Lyon	4,242	69,673
60. Madison	49,517	1,070,367
61. Magoffin	13,061	87,674
62. Marion	11,440	218,382
63. Marshall	21,122	352,838
64. Martin	7,567	80,185
65. Mason	11,736	179,973
66. McCracken	42,784	685,590
67. McCreary	10,207	116,643
68. McLean	5,390	101,700
69. Meade	16,894	287,776
70. Menifee	4,984	56,046
71. Mercer	12,355	233,671
72. Metcalfe	5,289	97,029
73. Monroe	5,152	109,626
74. Montgomery	18,963	280,227
75. Morgan	9,291	111,728
76. Muhlenberg	20,490	286,739
77. Nelson	26,376	501,900
78. Nicholas	5,188	80,356
79. Ohio	15,106	223,707
80. Owsley	2,835	27,586
81. Pendleton	8,971	158,910
82. Perry	20,595	220,128
83. Pike	50,092	506,238
84. Powell	8,746	116,810
85. Pulaski	38,195	614,404

86. Robertson	1,293	19,187
87. Rockcastle	10,967	162,666
88. Rowan	15,240	248,554
89. Russell	16,273	148,802
90. Scott	26,560	628,973
91. Taylor	17,549	267,424
92. Todd	6,308	129,488
93. Trigg	8,264	135,987
94. Trimble	5,633	91,875
95. Union	10,247	152,572
96. Washington	6,742	145,169
97. Wayne	14,366	172,977
98. Webster	7,784	147,374
99. Whitley	23,062	311,677
100. Wolfe	4,889	46,866
Total	1,532,494	23,719,831
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.5%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 17, 2016

- 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 the jurisdictions 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 and 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 Kentucky State agency.
- 14. Date of National Office action:** SEP 01 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** August 11, 2016
- 16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** August 11, 2016

17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS regional contact:

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