



United States Department of Agriculture

JUL 02 2018

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Mr. Sammy Guillory
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department of Children and Family Services
627 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

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

Dear Mr. Guillory:

This is in response to the Louisiana State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the State from September 1, 2018, through August 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 Louisiana's request to waive the time limit in the Statewide for the requested 12-month period. The approval extends waiver number 2160020.

The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have questions please contact Arianne Steed at Arianne.Steed@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

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160020
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
7. **Regulatory 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 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 Louisiana State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the State having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2015 through November 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.63 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, the State's combined aggregate unemployment rate for the selected time period was 5.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data December 2015 – November 2017*		
	Unemployed	Labor Force
Louisiana	2,873,326	50,882,074
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	

* Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 10, 2018

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Louisiana State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit Statewide because the State 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 as supporting documentation.
12. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Louisiana State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** JUL 02 2018
15. **Date of State agency's request:** April 11, 2018
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** April 12, 2018
17. **State agency contact:**
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(225) 219-2428
18. **FNS regional contact:**
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