



United States Department of Agriculture

AUG 12 2016

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 throughout the State.

Louisiana is currently approved to waive the time limit Statewide through November 30, 2016, under waiver number 2160020. That approval is based upon the State having triggered as eligible for extended unemployment benefits, as evidenced by a Department of Labor monthly trigger notice. The State agency has now requested to implement a new 12-month Statewide waiver based upon a more recent trigger notice indicating its eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.

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 trigger notice 2015-31, Louisiana is eligible to waive the time limit Statewide from September 2016 through August 2017, which would extend the State's current waiver by 9 months.

Therefore, FNS is approving Louisiana to extend its current waiver for 9 additional months, effective December 2016 through August 2017. The approval extends waiver number 2160020. The attached waiver response explains the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions, please contact Catrina Kamau at Catrina.Kamau@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

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. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** Southwest
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 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 Louisiana State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State. The State agency has supported its request based upon Louisiana's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f). The State has provided a copy of the Department of Labor Trigger Notice 2015-31, issued August 16, 2015, showing that Louisiana qualified 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.

Based upon trigger notice 2015-31, Louisiana is eligible for a Statewide ABAWD time limit waiver from September 2016 through August 2017. This would extend the State's current ABAWD time limit waiver by 9 months, effective December 2016 through August 2017.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** 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 December 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017.
- 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:** AUG 12 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** July 1, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 26, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
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Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov
(225) 219-2428
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
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(214) 290-9929