



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

JAN 18 2017

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 time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the State from September 1, 2017 through August 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 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.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

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 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.

Proposed alternative procedures: The Louisiana State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from September 1, 2017 through August 21, 2018. 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 September 2014 through August 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.2 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.3 percent. As detailed in the following table, the State's combined aggregate unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 6.4 percent

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data September 2014 through August 2016*			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Louisiana	3,309,918	51,907,747	6.4%

* Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data retrieved on December 20, 2016.

8. **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.

- 9. 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).
- 10. 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.
- 11. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018.
- 12. Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Louisiana State agency.
- 13. Date of national office action:** **JAN 18 2017**
- 14. Date of State agency's request:** December 8, 2016
- 15. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 8, 2016
- 16. State agency contact:**
Kim Matherne
Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov
(225) 219-2428
- 17. FNS regional contact:**
Arianne Steed
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(214) 290-9868