



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

July 6, 2023

Monica Brown
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Division of Family Support
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
627 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

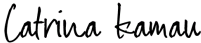
RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Louisiana Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Brown:

This is in response to the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services' May 30, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** Louisiana
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southwest
- 6. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency supported its request based upon a combined area of 33 parishes having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.2 percent. The average unemployment rate for the parishes was 5.2 percent during the 24-month period.

Enclosure

Page 2

Table 1: Counties (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Assumption Parish
2. Avoyelles Parish
3. Bienville Parish
4. Catahoula Parish
5. Claiborne Parish
6. Concordia Parish
7. East Carroll Parish
8. Evangeline Parish
9. Franklin Parish
10. Iberia Parish
11. Iberville Parish
12. Jefferson Parish
13. Madison Parish
14. Morehouse Parish
15. Orleans Parish
16. Ouachita Parish
17. Plaquemines Parish
18. Pointe Coupee Parish
19. Richland Parish
20. St. Bernard Parish
21. St. Helena Parish
22. St. James Parish
23. St. John the Baptist Parish
24. St. Landry Parish
25. St. Martin Parish
26. St. Mary Parish
27. Tangipahoa Parish
28. Tensas Parish
29. Terrebonne Parish
30. Union Parish
31. Washington Parish
32. West Carroll Parish
33. Winn Parish
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on June 20, 2023.

Enclosure

Page 3

8. FNS Action and Justification: FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.

9. Authority: The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).

10. Implementation Date: October 1, 2023

11. Expiration Date: September 30, 2024

12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:

To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Timothy Jenkins

Phone: (225) 342-9381

Email: Timothy.Jenkins@DCFS@la.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Rhonda Vaughn

Phone: (214) 273-0733

Email: Rhonda.Vaughn@usda.gov

Monica Brown
Page 2

FINAL:FNS:SNAP:PDD:CPB:LAdiaba:LJ:07/05/2021:703-305-2022
FILE:S:SNAP ALL: PDD_FY23:Waiver: LA – ABAWD Waiver Partial 10.23-09.24