



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria VA,
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Date: 5/26/2022

Brittany Mangini
Associate Commissioner for Food Security and Nutrition Programs
Department of Transitional Assistance
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
600 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

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

Dear Associate Commissioner Mangini:

This is in response to the Massachusetts agency's May 20, 2022, request to waive the 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) is approving this request for 6 months, from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022, per the State's request. The State may submit a request to for the full 12-month period for which it is eligible, based on the data submitted with its original request. The State cannot continue this waiver beyond November 30, 2022, without an approved waiver.

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:

J. David Noble for

FCBEAB537152496...

Jacqueline O'Connor
Acting 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:** Massachusetts
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
- 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 Massachusetts State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022. The State agency supported its request based upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for Statewide waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. According to the Department of Labor Trigger Notice No. 2021-23¹, effective June 20, 2021, the State qualified for extended unemployment benefits.
- 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:** June 1, 2022
- 11. Expiration Date:** November 30, 2022

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger notice 2021-23 was issued the week of June 20, 2021.

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12. Information Required for Requesting a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver: To receive a modification or new 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. If the State wishes to continue the waiver beyond November 30, 2022, the State may submit a request to for the full 12-month period for which it is eligible, based on the data submitted with its original request.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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