



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

AUG 31 2016

Ms. Tracey C. Paliath
Executive Director
Maryland Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3500

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

Dear Ms. Paliath:

This is in response to the Maryland State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 13 counties from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

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 Maryland to waive the time limit in the 13 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150044. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Alyssa Hayes at Alyssa.Hayes@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

RBE

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150044
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and 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:** Maryland
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
7. **Regulatory 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 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 Maryland State agency is requesting to waive the ABAWD time limit in 13 counties from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Maryland has grouped counties for consideration as three respective combined areas, and has supported its request based upon each combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016. Two of the combined areas consist of contiguous counties; another combined area consists of counties that share an economic region. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, the three combined areas had an aggregate unemployment rate greater than 6.6 during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2014 – March 2016		
Eastern Shore Contiguous Counties	Unemployment	Labor Force
Caroline	23,998	417,453
Cecil	77,517	1,272,538
Dorchester	28,931	378,485
Kent	14,372	251,799
Queen Anne's	30,000	638,130
Somerset	19,230	225,220
Talbot	23,642	460,093
Wicomico	85,434	1,215,881
Worcester	66,769	622,238
Combined Area Total	369,893	5,481,837
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	

Western Contiguous Counties	Unemployment	Labor Force
Allegany	56,554	789,730
Garrett	24,800	373,084
Combined Area Total	81,354	1,162,814
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.0%	

Baltimore Region	Unemployment	Labor Force
Baltimore City	557,424	7,085,989
Harford County	168,708	3,267,363
Combined Area Total	726,132	10,353,352
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.0%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on July 21, 2016.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Maryland State agency request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 13 counties because the jurisdictions meet 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 and supporting documentation.

12. Implementation date and expiration date: The waiver is effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

13. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests: This waiver is limited to the Maryland State agency.

14. Date of national office action: AUG 31 2016

15. Date of State agency's request: July 29, 2016

16. Date of regional office transmittal of request: August 4, 2016

17. State agency contact:

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Ann Flagg
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18. FNS Regional Contact:

Alyssa Hayes
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(609) 259-5055