



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

June 27, 2023

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Alexandria, VA
22314

La Sherra Ayala
Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Department of Human Services
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

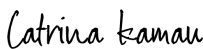
RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Maryland Request to
Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Director Ayala:

This is in response to the Maryland Department of Human Services' June 13, 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:** Maryland
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mid-Atlantic
- 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 requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in five areas from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the individual area of Baltimore city having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2020 through November 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the Baltimore city was 5.8 percent during the 24-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Individual Areas (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 – November 2022)

Counties	Unemployment Rate
Baltimore City	5.8%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on June 15, 2023.

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The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2020 through November 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 5.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 2).

Table 2: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 – November 2022)

Counties
Worcester County
Wicomico County
Somerset County
Combined Unemployment Rate: 5.5%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on June 15, 2023.

The State agency supported its request based upon the individual area of Prince George's county having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of October 2020 through September 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.8 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. The average unemployment rate for the Prince George's county was 5.9 percent during the 24-month period (Table 3).

Table 3: Individual Areas (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, October 2020 – September 2022)

Counties	Unemployment Rate
Prince George's County	5.9%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on June 15, 2023.

- 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:** July 1, 2023
- 11. Expiration Date:** June 30, 2024

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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:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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