



Office for Family Independence
19 Union Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 624-4168
Toll Free: 1-800-442-6003
Fax (207) 287-3455

August 31, 2012

Bonnie Brathwaite
SNAP Program Director
USDA Food and Nutrition Service NERO
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite,

Subject: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver for Fiscal Year 2013.

The enclosed USDA Nero Trigger Notice Memo issued March 21, 2012, confirms that Maine's unemployment levels do trigger criteria for extended Unemployment benefits, and that Maine may extend the suspension of ABAWD restrictions through at least September 30, 2013 without requesting an approved FNS waiver in advance. Please consider this letter as formal notification of Maine's intention to continue the ABAWD restriction-suspension waiver through September 30, 2013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Frey for Dale Denno, Director
Office for Family Independence (OFI)

Cc: Mike Frey, Deputy Director, OFI
Beth Hamm, Director, Policy and Programs
Karen Curtis, Food Supplement Program Manager



MAR 21 2012

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-Able Bodied Adults
Without Dependents Waivers for Fiscal Year 2013

TO: All Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

This memo provides information about which States are eligible to waive Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limits for participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for fiscal year 2013. Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), a State can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines it meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can approve a waiver if the State's unemployment triggers the criteria for extended benefit compensation (EB), regardless of whether the State has elected the option to offer EB itself. States that meet the EB criteria can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver, up to 12 months after the trigger date.

The Department of Labor's Emergency Unemployment Compensation Trigger Notice 2011-52, effective January 8, 2012, indicates that 46 States or geographic areas met the emergency unemployment compensation criteria:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Thus, the 46 qualifying States or geographic areas may suspend the time limits on ABAWDs through at least September 30, 2013. In addition, State agencies that appear on a different DOL Trigger Notice beginning no earlier than October 1, 2011, also qualify for a fiscal year 2013 ABAWD waiver. States must notify their FNS regional office of the statewide implementation. We request that States provide written notification of their decision to adopt this waiver to their FNS regional office by August 31, 2012. For States that do not qualify for a statewide waiver under the EB trigger notice, SNAP regulations at 273.24(f) provide details about additional ways a State may qualify for an ABAWD waiver, either statewide or within certain areas of the State.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Davis at Stephanie.Davis@fns.usda.gov.

Lizbeth Silberman

Director

Program Development Division

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