



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 27, 2023

Patricia Dushuttle
Special Projects Manager
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Department of Health and Human Services
109 Capitol Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

Dear Manager Dushuttle:

This is in response to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' August 3, 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) appreciates the clarifying information the State agency provided in the Waiver Information Management System (WIMS) related to their request. Based on these communications, FNS notes that while the State agency listed the town of Oxbow Plantation as part of the Presque Isle Labor Market Area (LMA) in their request, this town is not considered part of this LMA according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, since this town is still eligible to be waived as part of the contiguous grouping of LMAs, it is still included in the approval, albeit as an individual town in the grouping rather than as part of the LMA. Additionally, the State mistakenly removed the town of Northwest Somerset from its revised September 18, 2023, request. FNS confirmed with the State that this town should be included as part of the Skowhegan LMA, and therefore, it is included in this approval.

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.

Patricia Dushuttle
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Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Caroline Milliken

889B5BE312B748D

for 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:** Maine
- 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 State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in ten Labor Market Areas (LMAs), which are comprised of 199 towns, and 61 additional towns from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The State grouped nine of the LMAs into two combined areas, with one of the combined areas also including an individual town. The State requested one LMA individually. The State grouped certain contiguous towns for consideration as seven combined areas, while considering one town individually.

For one combined group of contiguous LMAs and a town (Table A), one combined group of contiguous LMAs (Table B), two combined groups of contiguous towns (Tables C and D), and one individual town (Table E), the State agency supported its request based upon these areas having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of either April 2021 through March 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.2 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.0 percent. The average unemployment rate for these areas was 5.0 percent or greater during the 24-month period.

For the individual LMA (Table F), and the other five groups of contiguous towns (Tables G, H, I, J, and K), the State agency supported its request based upon these areas having an 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 areas was 5.2 percent or greater during the 24-month period.

Table A: Regional Grouping of Labor Market Areas #1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2021 – March 2023)

Towns by Labor Market Area
<i>Calais, ME LMA</i>
1. Alexander town, ME
2. Baileyville town, ME
3. Baring plantation, ME
4. Calais city, ME
5. Charlotte town, ME
6. Codyville plantation, ME
7. Cooper town, ME
8. Crawford town, ME
9. Eastport city, ME
10. Grand Lake Stream plantation, ME
11. Meddybemps town, ME
12. North Washington unorganized, ME
13. Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation, ME
14. Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Reservation, ME
15. Pembroke town, ME
16. Perry town, ME
17. Princeton town, ME
18. Robbinston town, ME
19. Talmadge town, ME
20. Topsfield town, ME
21. Vanceboro town, ME
22. Waite town, ME
<i>Houlton, ME LMA</i>
1. Amity town, ME
2. Bancroft unorganized, ME
3. Cary plantation, ME
4. Crystal town, ME
5. Danforth town, ME
6. Dyer Brook town, ME
7. Hammond town, ME
8. Haynesville town, ME
9. Hersey town, ME
10. Hodgdon town, ME
11. Houlton town, ME

12. Island Falls town, ME
13. Kingman unorganized, ME
14. Linneus town, ME
15. Littleton town, ME
16. Ludlow town, ME
17. Macwahoc plantation, ME
18. Merrill town, ME
19. Monticello town, ME
20. Moro plantation, ME
21. Mount Chase town, ME
22. New Limerick town, ME
23. Oakfield town, ME
24. Orient town, ME
25. Patten town, ME
26. Reed plantation, ME
27. Sherman town, ME
28. Smyrna town, ME
29. Stacyville town, ME
30. Weston town, ME
<i>Lincoln, ME LMA</i>
1. Carroll plantation, ME
2. Chester town, ME
3. Drew plantation, ME
4. Lakeville town, ME
5. Lee town, ME
6. Lincoln town, ME
7. Lowell town, ME
8. Prentiss unorganized, ME
9. Springfield town, ME
10. Twombly Ridge unorganized, ME
11. Webster plantation, ME
12. Whitney unorganized, ME
13. Winn town, ME
<i>Machias, ME LMA</i>
1. Addison town, ME
2. Beals town, ME
3. Cherryfield town, ME
4. Columbia Falls town, ME
5. Columbia town, ME
6. Cutler town, ME
7. Deblois town, ME
8. Dennysville town, ME
9. East Central Washington unorganized, ME
10. East Machias town, ME
11. Harrington town, ME
12. Jonesboro town, ME
13. Jonesport town, ME

14. Lubec town, ME
15. Machias town, ME
16. Machiasport town, ME
17. Marshfield town, ME
18. Milbridge town, ME
19. Northfield town, ME
20. Roque Bluffs town, ME
21. Wesley town, ME
22. Whiting town, ME
23. Whitneyville town, ME
<i>Madawaska, ME LMA</i>
1. Frenchville town, ME
2. Grand Isle town, ME
3. Madawaska town, ME
4. St. Agatha town, ME
<i>Millinocket, ME LMA</i>
1. East Millinocket town, ME
2. Glenwood plantation, ME
3. Mattawamkeag town, ME
4. Maxfield town, ME
5. Medway town, ME
6. Millinocket town, ME
7. North Penobscot unorganized, ME
8. Northeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME
9. Seboeis plantation, ME
10. South Aroostook unorganized, ME
11. Woodville town, ME
<i>Presque Isle, ME LMA</i>
1. Allagash town, ME
2. Ashland town, ME
3. Blaine town, ME
4. Bridgewater town, ME
5. Caribou city, ME
6. Castle Hill town, ME
7. Caswell town, ME
8. Central Aroostook unorganized, ME
9. Chapman town, ME
10. Connor unorganized, ME
11. Cyr plantation, ME
12. Eagle Lake town, ME
13. Easton town, ME
14. Fort Fairfield town, ME
15. Fort Kent town, ME
16. Garfield plantation, ME
17. Hamlin town, ME
18. Limestone town, ME
19. Mapleton town, ME

20. Mars Hill town, ME
21. Masardis town, ME
22. Nashville plantation, ME
23. New Canada town, ME
24. New Sweden town, ME
25. Northwest Aroostook unorganized, ME
26. Perham town, ME
27. Portage Lake town, ME
28. Presque Isle city, ME
29. Square Lake unorganized, ME
30. St. Francis town, ME
31. St. John plantation, ME
32. Stockholm town, ME
33. Van Buren town, ME
34. Wade town, ME
35. Wallagrass town, ME
36. Washburn town, ME
37. Westfield town, ME
38. Westmanland town, ME
39. Winterville plantation, ME
40. Woodland town, ME
<i>Individual Town – Contiguous to Grouped LMAs</i>
1. Oxbow plantation, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table B: Regional Grouping of Labor Market Areas #2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2021 – March 2023)

Towns in Labor Market Area
<i>Pittsfield, ME LMA</i>
1. Corinna town, ME
2. Detroit town, ME
3. Harmony town, ME
4. Hartland town, ME
5. Kingsbury plantation, ME
6. Palmyra town, ME
7. Pittsfield town, ME
8. Plymouth town, ME
9. St. Albans town, ME
10. Troy town, ME
11. Wellington town, ME
<i>Skowhegan, ME LMA</i>
1. Anson town, ME
2. Athens town, ME
3. Bingham town, ME
4. Brighton plantation, ME
5. Canaan town, ME

6. Caratunk town, ME
7. Cornville town, ME
8. Dennistown plantation, ME
9. Embden town, ME
10. Highland plantation, ME
11. Jackman town, ME
12. Madison town, ME
13. Mercer town, ME
14. Moose River town, ME
15. Moscow town, ME
16. Norridgewock town, ME
17. Northeast Somerset unorganized, ME
18. Northwest Somerset unorganized, ME
19. Pleasant Ridge plantation, ME
20. Seboomook Lake unorganized, ME
21. Skowhegan town, ME
22. Smithfield town, ME
23. Solon town, ME
24. Starks town, ME
25. The Forks plantation, ME
26. West Forks plantation, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table C: Regional Grouping of Towns #1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2021 – March 2023)

Towns
1. Boothbay Harbor town, ME
2. Southport town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table D: Regional Grouping of Towns #2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2021 – March 2023)

Towns
1. Aurora town, ME
2. Burlington town, ME
3. Central Hancock unorganized, ME
4. East Central Penobscot unorganized, ME
5. East Hancock unorganized, ME
6. Eastbrook town, ME
7. Franklin town, ME
8. Gouldsboro town, ME
9. Great Pond town, ME
10. Mariaville town, ME
11. Northwest Hancock unorganized, ME
12. Osborn town, ME

13. Passadumkeag town, ME
14. Steuben town, ME
15. Sullivan town, ME
16. Winter Harbor town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table E: Individual Town (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2021 – March 2023)

Town	Unemployment Rate
1. Stoneham town, ME	5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table F: Individual Labor Market Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Towns in Labor Market Area
<i>Rumford, ME LMA</i>
1. Andover town, ME
2. Bethel town, ME
3. Byron town, ME
4. Carthage town, ME
5. Dixfield town, ME
6. Gilead town, ME
7. Greenwood town, ME
8. Hanover town, ME
9. Lincoln plantation, ME
10. Magalloway plantation, ME
11. Mexico town, ME
12. Milton unorganized, ME
13. Newry town, ME
14. North Oxford unorganized, ME
15. Peru town, ME
16. Roxbury town, ME
17. Rumford town, ME
18. Upton town, ME
19. Woodstock town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table G: Regional Grouping of Towns #3 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Avon town, ME
2. Beaver Cove town, ME
3. Blanchard unorganized, ME
4. Coplin plantation, ME

5. Dallas plantation, ME
6. East Central Franklin unorganized, ME
7. Eustis town, ME
8. Kingfield town, ME
9. New Portland town, ME
10. New Vineyard town, ME
11. North Franklin unorganized, ME
12. Northwest Piscataquis unorganized, ME
13. Phillips town, ME
14. Shirley town, ME
15. South Franklin unorganized, ME
16. Strong town, ME
17. Weld town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table H: Regional Grouping of Towns #4 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Canton town, ME
2. Livermore Falls town, ME
3. Livermore town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table I: Regional Grouping of Towns #5 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Dixmont town, ME
2. Etna town, ME
3. Jackson town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table J: Regional Grouping of Towns #6 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Atkinson town, ME
2. Bowerbank town, ME
3. Bradford town, ME
4. Brownville town, ME
5. Cambridge town, ME
6. Charleston town, ME
7. Corinth town, ME
8. Garland town, ME
9. Lagrange town, ME
10. Lake View plantation, ME

11. Milo town, ME
12. Ripley town, ME
13. Sangerville town, ME
14. Sebec town, ME
15. Southeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME
16. Willimantic town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 2023.

Table K: Regional Grouping of Towns #7 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties
1. Tremont town, ME
2. Southwest Harbor town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 31, 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: 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: Patricia Dushuttle

Phone: (207) 215-0995

Email: Patricia.Dushuttle@maine.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Leidy Mateus

Email: leidy.mateus@usda.gov