



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

December 16, 2022

1320 Braddock  
Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

Dawn M. Sweeney  
State Administrator  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Department of Health & Human Services  
235 South Grand Avenue  
PO Box 30037  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: SNAP – Michigan Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear State Administrator Sweeney:

This is in response to the Michigan agency's November 29, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) for two years. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. This approval is effective March 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024.

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:

*Catrina Kamau*

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Catrina 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:** Michigan
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 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 Statewide from March 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024. The State agency supported its request based upon the State having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2020 through February 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 8.1 percent. The average unemployment rate for the State was 8.1 percent during the 24-month period.

FNS reminds the State agency that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) continues to temporarily and partially suspend the ABAWD time limit nationwide. While the suspension remains in place, only ABAWDs who are offered a slot in a work or workfare program, including a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program, are subject to the time limit.

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**Table 1: State (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data,  
March 2020 – February 2022)**

| State                                                                                              | Unemployment Rate |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Michigan                                                                                           | 8.1%              |
| <i>Data extracted from <a href="http://www.bls.gov">http://www.bls.gov</a> on December 9, 2022</i> |                   |

**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:** March 1, 2023

**11. Expiration Date:** February 29, 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: Dawn Sweeney  
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Email: [sweeneyd1@michigan.gov](mailto:sweeneyd1@michigan.gov)

**14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**

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