



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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SEP 21 2017

Jovon Perry
Director
Economic Assistance & Employment Supports Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 64951
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0951

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

Dear Ms. Perry:

This is in response to the Minnesota State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 29 counties and 12 reservation areas from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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 Minnesota to waive the time limit in the 29 counties and 12 reservation areas for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2160002. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Sheena Panoor at Sheena.Panoor@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160002
2. **Type of request:** Extension and amendment
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:** Minnesota
6. **Region:** Midwest
7. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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) 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.

Proposed alternative procedures: The Minnesota State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 29 counties and 12 reservations from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The State agency has grouped counties for consideration as two 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 a recent 24-month period. In addition, the State agency has supported its request for 12 reservation areas based upon each individual area having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State agency selected the same 24-month period – June 2015 through May 2017 – for the 29 counties and 12 reservation areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.87 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.8 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached 5.8 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
June 2015 through May 2017*		
County Area 1	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
1. Aitkin	11,622	167,143
2. Becker	20,038	437,669
3. Beltrami	29,337	564,581
4. Carlton	22,208	418,271
5. Cass	22,868	341,713
6. Clearwater	10,643	112,219
7. Cook	3,272	73,530
8. Crow Wing	38,585	756,670
9. Hubbard	14,734	233,116
10. Isanti	22,549	487,078
11. Itasca	42,530	524,595
12. Kanabec	14,205	213,971
13. Kittson	2,704	57,896
14. Koochiching	12,325	147,543
15. Lake	7,403	129,414
16. Lake of the Woods	2,745	57,786
17. Mahnomen	3,292	57,440
18. Marshall	9,885	135,173
19. Mille Lacs	18,240	303,741
20. Morrison	24,012	425,619
21. Norman	4,010	82,451
22. Pennington	12,683	216,672
23. Pine	20,919	354,801
24. Red Lake	3,956	55,864
25. Roseau	10,152	200,616
26. St. Louis	135,128	2,431,563
27. Todd	14,315	310,137
28. Wadena	8,865	149,490
Total for Region	543,225	9,446,762
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.8%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 12, 2017

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data June 2015 through May 2017*			
County Area 2	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Cottonwood	8,350	132,830	6.3%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 12, 2017

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data June 2015 through May 2017*			
Reservation	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
1. Bois Forte	1,867	11,437	16.3%
2. Fond du Lac	3,576	45,269	7.9%
3. Grand Portage	740	8,048	9.2%
4. Leech Lake	15,180	115,921	13.1%
5. Lower Sioux Community	433	3,354	12.9%
6. Mille Lacs	5,635	43,952	12.8%
7. Chippewa Trust	132	776	17%
8. Prairie Island Community	89	1,384	6.4%
9. Red Lake	7,999	59,173	13.5%
10. Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	287	2,613	11.0%
11. Upper Sioux Community	430	2,070	20.8%
12. White Earth	7,826	103,830	7.5%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://factfinder.census.gov> on August 12, 2017.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Minnesota State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 29 counties and 12 reservation areas because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **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).
10. **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.

11. Implementation date and expiration date: The waiver is effective October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

12. Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests: The waiver is limited to the Minnesota State agency.

13. Date of national office action: **SEP 21 2017**

14. Date of State agency's request: August 21, 2017

15. Date of regional office transmittal of request: August 21, 2017

16. State agency contact:

Karen Nelsen-Huss

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17. FNS regional contacts:

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