



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

AUG 16 2016

Mr. Jim Koppel
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services
Minnesota Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 64244
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0244

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

Dear Mr. Koppel:

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 13 counties and one reservation from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

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 13 counties and one reservation for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2160002. For tracking purposes, please note that Minnesota is also approved to waive the time limit in another 11 reservation areas through September 30, 2017, under waiver number 2160003.

The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact April Moss at April.Moss@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:** Amendment and extension
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, provides 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) also provides 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 in an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Minnesota State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 13 counties and one reservation from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. The State agency has grouped 12 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area, while considering the remaining county and reservation area individually. The State has supported its request based upon the areas having aggregate average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of June 2014 through May 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.5 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data June 2014 – May 2016*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Marshall	9,333	137,678
County Unemployment Rate	6.8%	
County Group	Unemployed	Labor Force
Aitkin	10,062	163,839
Cass	22,778	337,861
Clearwater	10,634	111,728
Hubbard	14,170	229,511
Itasca	36,855	543,086
Kanabec	14,739	212,526
Koochiching	12,345	151,716
Lake of the Woods	2,648	58,805
Mahnomen	3,111	58,115
Mille Lacs	18,398	308,163
Norman	3,904	81,924
Wadena	9,025	151,901
Combined Area Total	158,669	2,409,175
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on July 28, 2016

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data / Census Bureau Data*	
Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate: June 2014 – May 2016
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Reservation	9.1%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and
<http://factfinder.census.gov> on July 28, 2016.

- 9. 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 13 counties and one reservation area because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. 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).
- 11. 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.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.
- 13. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Minnesota State agency.
- 14. Date of national office action:** AUG 16 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** July 22, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 22, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
Karen Nelsen-Huss
(651) 431-4027
Karen.Nelson-Huss@state.mn.us

Steve Erbes
(651) 431-4027
Steve.Erbes@state.mn.us
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
April Moss
(312) 353-1608
April.Moss@fns.usda