



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: September 5, 2018

Kathy Bruen
SNAP Manager
Economic Assistance & Employment Supports Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-3815

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Minnesota Request to Waive
Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval**

Dear Ms. Bruen:

This is in response to the Minnesota State agency's July 18, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 30 counties and 11 reservation areas from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

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 the State to waive the time limit in the area for a 12-month period, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved area, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2160002
2. **Request Type:** Extension and amendment
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Minnesota
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Midwest
7. **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.
8. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Minnesota State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 30 counties and 11 reservations from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. The State agency has grouped contiguous counties for consideration as two respective combined areas, and has supported its request based upon each respective combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State agency selected March 2016 through February 2018 for these areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.4 percent. As shown in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas were 5.4 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

Counties
1. Cottonwood County
2. Murray County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.4%

Table 2: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018)

Counties
1. Aitkin County
2. Becker County
3. Beltrami County
4. Carlton County
5. Cass County
6. Clearwater County
7. Cook County
8. Crow Wing County
9. Hubbard County
10. Isanti County
11. Itasca County
12. Kanabec County
13. Kittson County
14. Koochiching County
15. Lake County
16. Lake of the Woods County
17. Mahnommen County
18. Marshall County
19. Mille Lacs County
20. Morrison County
21. Norman County
22. Pennington County
23. Pine County
24. Red Lake County
25. Roseau County
26. St. Louis County
27. Todd County
28. Wadena County
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.4%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on August 6, 2018

The State agency has supported its request for the 11 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 May 2016 through April 2018 for the reservation areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.4 percent. As shown in the following table, the unemployment rate for each requested reservation area was at least 20 percent above the national average during the selected time period.

Table 3: Reservation Areas (American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data May 2016 through April 2018)

Reservation	Unemployment Rate
1. Bois Forte Reservation	13.1%
2. Fond du Lac Reservation	8.7%
3. Grand Portage Reservation	11.6%
4. Leech Lake Reservation	11.3%
5. Lower Sioux Community Reservation	12.6%
6. Mille Lacs Reservation	12.7%
7. Prairie Island Community Reservation	7.9%
8. Red Lake Reservation	14.5%
9. Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Reservation	11.0%
10. Upper Sioux Community Reservation	18.1%
11. White Earth Reservation	7.8%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and http://factfinder.census.gov on August 9, 2018.	

9. FNS Action and Justification: FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.

10. Authority: The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).

11. Implementation Date: October 1, 2018

12. Expiration Date: September 30, 2019

13. Information Required for Amendment or 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.

14. State Agency Contact Information:

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