



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 25 2015

David Locklear
Chief, Economic and Family Services
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
101 Blair Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Re: SNAP – North Carolina Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Mr. Locklear:

This is in response to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' request to extend and modify waiver number 2150039, which would allow North Carolina to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in a total of 77 counties from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016.

The North Carolina State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 70 contiguous counties based upon the group having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. Similarly, the State agency has supported waiving the time limit in another seven contiguous counties based upon the group having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State demonstrates that each group's aggregate average unemployment rate reached 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month period. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition service is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 77 requested counties for 12 months, effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

David Locklear

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The attached response lists all 77 counties and details the terms and conditions of the waiver approval. If you have any questions, please contact Gwen Daniels at Gwen.Daniels@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sasha Gersten-Paal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue rectangular background behind it.

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150039
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** North Carolina
5. **Region:** Southeast
6. **Regulatory requirement:** Federal 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. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating and complying with a workfare program.

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in 77 counties from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The North Carolina State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 70 contiguous counties based upon the group having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. Similarly, the State agency has supported waiving the time limit in another seven contiguous counties based upon the group having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The State agency selected the same 24-month period – January 2013 through December 2014 – for each of the county groups. During this 24-month period the national average unemployment rate was 6.8 percent; 20 percent above this is 8.1 percent. As detailed in the tables that follow, each county group qualifies based upon having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average from January 2013 through December 2014.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 through December 2014*		
70 County Group	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Alleghany	105,019	8,125
Anson	261,082	21,364
Ashe	301,657	24,080
Avery	183,247	13,911
Beaufort	483,094	40,148
Bertie	202,473	18,027
Bladen	342,462	35,323
Brunswick	1,137,923	97,860
Burke	951,990	68,816
Caldwell	860,826	71,374
Camden	107,439	6,994
Carteret	743,365	50,479
Caswell	232,653	18,415
Chatham	757,058	41,010
Chowan	136,250	11,919
Cleveland	1,102,325	91,182
Columbus	562,890	52,302
Craven	986,826	76,157
Cumberland	3,081,798	266,905
Currituck	297,931	20,367
Dare	482,956	46,001
Duplin	633,740	45,195
Edgecombe	563,332	64,929
Franklin	677,081	48,059
Gates	125,237	8,091
Granville	676,026	42,545
Greene	225,033	15,916
Halifax	513,476	54,574
Harnett	1,180,901	96,700
Hertford	225,647	18,701
Hoke	465,257	40,778
Hyde	51,598	5,182
Johnston	2,032,022	126,151

Jones	108,545	7,981
Lee	608,921	55,365
Lenoir	673,131	52,636
70 County Group (continued)	Labor Force Totals	Unemployed Totals
Madison	225,896	15,553
Martin	238,654	21,507
McDowell	491,894	37,401
Mitchell	157,737	14,523
Montgomery	276,815	20,261
Moore	908,304	61,727
Nash	1,067,707	97,004
Northampton	193,072	17,202
Onslow	1,531,811	99,200
Pamlico	127,178	9,517
Pasquotank	417,919	36,777
Pender	599,397	47,457
Perquimans	123,640	10,539
Person	436,364	37,786
Pitt	2,086,211	148,691
Polk	203,833	11,875
Richmond	414,999	42,089
Robeson	1,232,747	129,480
Rockingham	997,897	84,325
Rowan	1,502,482	118,586
Rutherford	612,985	59,824
Sampson	706,869	49,215
Scotland	289,697	38,657
Stanly	685,133	47,783
Stokes	526,374	35,291
Surry	79,0529	56,732
Tyrrell	36,954	4,060
Vance	431,678	44,398
Warren	174,099	17,032
Washington	123,603	13,507
Wayne	1,298,707	91,018
Wilkes	709,697	54,655
Wilson	905,462	94,808
Yancey	183,137	14,705
Group Total	42,790,692	3,446,747
Group Unemployment Rate	8.1%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold	8.1%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 24, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2013 through December 2014*		
7 County Group	Labor Force Total	Unemployed Total
Cherokee	266,343	21,540
Clay	96,882	7,265
Graham	82,218	1,526
Jackson	437,419	32,439
Macon	360,017	27,999
Swain	155,309	16,449
Transylvania	319,458	21,147
Group Total	1,717,646	138,365
Group Unemployment Rate		8.1%
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold		8.1%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 24, 2015

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 77 counties because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. The two groups and the 77 counties therein qualify for the waiver extension because each had an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2013 through December 2014.
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests an extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** The waiver extension is effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the North Carolina State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** **SEP 25 2015**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** July 17, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 21, 2015

17. **Implementation date:** January 1, 2016

18. **State agency contact:**
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(919) 527-6316

19. **FNS regional contacts:**
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(404) 562-7107