



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria VA,  
22314

June 14, 2022

Deb Kramer  
SNAP Director, Economic Assistance Division  
Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Department 325  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

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

Dear Director Kramer:

This is in response to the North Dakota agency's May 27, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

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:  
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacqueline O'Connor".  
1571FEB51B1B482...

Jacqueline O'Connor  
Acting 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:** North Dakota
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mountain Plains
- 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 in 9 counties from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The State agency grouped contiguous counties for consideration as two respective combined areas. The State agency supported its request based upon each respective combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2020 through March 2022. During this period the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 8.0 percent. The unemployment rate for each combined area was 8.1 percent for the 24-month period.

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

| <b>Counties</b>                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Benson County                                                                        |
| 2. Nelson County                                                                        |
| 3. Pierce County                                                                        |
| 4. Rolette County                                                                       |
| 5. Sheridan County                                                                      |
| <b>Combined Areas Unemployment Rate: 8.1%</b>                                           |
| Data extracted from <a href="http://www.bls.gov">http://www.bls.gov</a> on June 2, 2022 |

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**Table 2: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area  
Unemployment Data, April 2020 – March 2022)**

| <b>Counties</b>                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Burke County                                                                         |
| 2. Divide County                                                                        |
| 3. Renville County                                                                      |
| 4. Williams County                                                                      |
| <b>Combined Areas Unemployment Rate: 8.1%</b>                                           |
| Data extracted from <a href="http://www.bls.gov">http://www.bls.gov</a> on June 2, 2022 |

- 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:** July 1, 2022
- 11. Expiration Date:** June 30, 2023
- 12. Information Required for Requesting a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:** To receive a modification or new 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: Deb Kramer  
Email: [DebKramer@nd.gov](mailto:DebKramer@nd.gov)
- 14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**  
Name: Sonja Jefferson  
Email: [Sonja.Jefferson@usda.gov](mailto:Sonja.Jefferson@usda.gov)