



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 08 2017

Terry R. Smith
Director, Division of Family Assistance
Department of Health and Human Services
State of New Hampshire
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to the New Hampshire State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 14 jurisdictions 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 New Hampshire to waive the time limit in the 14 jurisdictions for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2130035. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Beth Soukhanov at Beth.Soukhanov@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2130035
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:** New Hampshire
6. **Region:** Northeast
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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The New Hampshire State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 14 jurisdictions from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017. The State agency has grouped ten towns and townships for consideration as a combined area. The State agency has also grouped three additional towns for consideration as a combined area. In addition, the State agency has requested an individual town. The State agency has supported its request based upon the combined areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.0 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rate for the combined areas reached or exceeded 6.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017*		
Combined Area	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
1. Cambridge township	0	72
2. Clarksville town	190	2,765
3. Columbia town	327	7,561
4. Dixville township	0	24
5. Dummer town	217	3,745
6. Errol town	273	4,016
7. Millsfield township	0	94
8. Stark town	285	5,196
9. Stratford town	413	6,161
10. Wentworth location	129	370
Combined Area Total	1,834	30,004
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.1%	

*Data extracted from www.bls.gov on August 28, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017*		
Conway Labor Market Area	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
1. Chatham town	166	3,795
2. Hale's location	79	1,014
3. Hart's Location town	101	964
Combined Area Total	346	5,773
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	

*Data extracted from www.bls.gov on August 28, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017*		
Individual Area	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Ellsworth town	85	1,263
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	

*Data extracted from www.bls.gov on August 28, 2017.

9. Action and reason for approval or denial: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the New Hampshire State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 14 jurisdictions because the areas 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, 2017, through September 30, 2018.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on Regional Office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the New Hampshire State agency.
- 14. Date of National Office action:** **SEP 08 2017**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** August 17, 2017
- 16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** August 17, 2017
- 17. State agency contact:**
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- 18. FNS regional contacts:**
Beth Soukhanov
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