



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 08 2016

Terry R. Smith
Director, Division of Family Assistance
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3857

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

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 ABAWD in 14 towns 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 New Hampshire State agency's request to waive the time limit in the 14 towns 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 Kevin Pasquaretta at Kevin.Pasquaretta@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:** 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:** New Hampshire
6. **Region:** Northeast
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 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 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 towns from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The State agency has grouped 11 contiguous towns for consideration as a combined area, while considering another three towns individually. The State has supported its request based upon the areas having aggregate average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.72 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.9 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.9 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 – December 2015*			
Individual Towns	Unemployment	Labor Force	Rate
Ellsworth Town	108	1,264	8.5%
Hale's Location	71	1,011	7.0%
Hart's Location Town	99	982	10.1%
Contiguous Towns	Unemployment	Labor Force	
Cambridge town	0	72	
Clarksville town	223	2,850	
Columbia town	405	7,647	
Dixville township	0	48	
Dummer town	300	3,844	
Erroll town	310	4,123	
Millsfield township	0	94	
Northumberland town	1,544	25,242	
Stark town	395	5,333	
Stratford town	544	6,370	
Wentworth Location	129	393	
Combined Area Total	3,850	56,016	
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.9%		

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 22, 2016.

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 towns 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 as 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 New Hampshire State agency.

14. Date of National Office action: SEP 08 2016

15. Date of State agency's request: August 15, 2016

16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request: August 15, 2016

17. State agency contact:

Laurie Green
(603) 271-9287
Laurie.Green@dhhs.nh.gov

18. FNS regional contact:

Keven Pasquaretta
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Keven.Pasquaretta@fns.usda.gov