



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: September 5, 2018

Stephanie Decker

Administrator III

Bureau of Family Assistance

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

129 Pleasant Street

Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3857

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

Dear Ms. Decker:

This is in response to the New Hampshire State agency's August 13, 2018, request to waive SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 15 towns 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 areas for a 12-month period, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, 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:** 2130035
- 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:** New Hampshire
- 6. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
- 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 New Hampshire State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 15 towns from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. The State agency has combined certain towns that are economically tied, while considering one town individually. The State has supported its request based upon the areas having average unemployment rates at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. As shown in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas were at least 5.5 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017)

Contiguous Towns
1. Cambridge township
2. Clarksville town
3. Columbia town
4. Dixville township
5. Dummer town
6. Errol town
7. Millsfield township
8. Stark town
9. Stratford town
10. Wentworth location
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.5%
Data obtained from BLS in April 2018.

Table 2: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017)

Conway NH-ME Labor Market Area Towns
1. Chatham town
2. Hale's location
3. Hart's Location town
4. Pinkhams grant
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.9%
Data obtained from BLS in April 2018.

Table 4: Ellsworth Town (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017)

Individual Town
Ellsworth town
Unemployment Rate: 6.1%
Data obtained from BLS in April 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, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** October 1, 2018
- 12. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2019
- 13. Information Required for 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:**
Name: Laurie A. Green
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Email: laurie.green@dhhs.nh.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
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