



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 20, 2022

Debra Sorli
Administrator IV
Bureau of Family Assistance
Division of Economic & Housing Stability
Department of Health and Human Services
129 Peasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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

Dear Administrator Sorli:

This is in response to the New Hampshire agency's September 7, 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 black ink that reads "Catrina Kamau".

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Catrina Kamau

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:** New Hampshire
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
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.

Requested Area(s) and Support: The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 7 towns from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. FNS reminds the State agency that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) continues to temporarily and partially suspend the ABAWD time limit nationwide. While the suspension remains in place, only ABAWDs who are offered a slot in a work or workfare program, including a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program, are subject to the time limit.

The State agency supported its request based upon the individual towns of Dalton and Stratford each having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2020 through December 2021. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 8.0 percent. The average unemployment rate for the towns of Dalton and Stratford was 8.5 percent and 9.0 percent respectively during the 24-month period (Table 1).

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined towns of Hale's Location and Pinkham's Grant having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average 24-month period of January 2020 through December 2021. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above the rate is 8.0 percent. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 8.1 percent during the 24-month period (Table 2).

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined towns of Ellsworth, Lincoln, and Waterville Valley having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average 24-month period of April 2020 through March 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above the rate is 8.0 percent. The average aggregate unemployment rate for the combined area was 8.0 percent a during the 24-month period (Table 3).

The State agency requested to waive the time limit for two individual towns, for one grouping of two towns for consideration as one combined area, and for one grouping of 3 towns for consideration as one combined area

Table 1: Towns (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, January 2020 – December 2021)

Towns	Unemployment Rate
1. Dalton town, NH	8.5%
2. Stratford town, NH	9.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 16, 2022

Table 2: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment January 2020 – December 2021)

Towns	Unemployment Rate
1. Hale's Location, NH	9.1%
2. Pinkham's Grant, NH	0%
Combined Areas Unemployment Rate	8.1%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 16, 2022

Table 3: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment April 2020 – March 2022)

Towns	Unemployment Rate
1. Ellsworth town, NH	4.7%
2. Lincoln town, NH	8.1%
3. Waterville Valley town, NH	8.3%
Combined Areas Unemployment Rate	8.0%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 16, 2022

7. **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.
8. **Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
9. **Implementation Date:** October 1, 2022
10. **Expiration Date:** September 30, 2023

11. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver: To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current 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.

12. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Bridgette Dukette

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Email: Bridgette.s.dukette@dhhs.nh.gov

13. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Ashley Krebs

Email: ashley.krebs@usda.gov