



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 27, 2023

Karmela Martinez
Director
Income Support Division
Human Services Department
Post Office Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

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

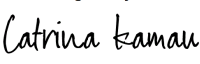
Dear Director Martinez:

This is in response to the New Mexico agency's August 31, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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.

The Food and Nutrition Service (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 L. Kamau".

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

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 Mexico
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southwest
- 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 throughout the State from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the State having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2021 through April 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for the State was 4.8 percent during the 24-month period.

Table 1: State (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, May 2021 – April 2023)

State	Unemployment Rate
New Mexico	4.8%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 19, 2023

- 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.

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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: January 1, 2024

11. Expiration Date: December 31, 2024

12. 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.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Maria Garcia

Phone: mariae.garcia@hsd.nm.gov

Email: 505-396-0314

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Arianne Steed

Phone: arianne.steed@usda.gov

Email: 214-290-9868