



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

JAN 13 2016

Ms. Phyllis Morris
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Center for Employment and Economic Supports
40 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12243

RE: SNAP – New York Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit – Amendment to Waiver 2150029 – Partial
Approval

Dear Ms. Morris:

This is in response to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's requests to amend waiver number 2150029. The New York State agency has requested to expand its waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in additional areas from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for calendar year 2016. After careful review of the supporting data, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is partially approving New York's requests.

FNS is approving New York's request to waive the time limit in the cities of Binghamton and Syracuse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State demonstrates that each of these cities had unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average from October 2013 through September 2015. During this 24-month period the national unemployment rate was 5.9 percent; 20 percent above this is 7.1 percent. Both Binghamton and Syracuse's unemployment rates reached 7.1 percent for the selected time period.

FNS is not approving the State Agency's request to waive the time limit in certain zip code tabulation areas located within New York City and around the cities of Buffalo and Rochester. As discussed with the State over conference call on January 8, 2016, FNS is not approving these requests because the evidence provided by the State does not adequately demonstrate a lack of sufficient jobs for the requested areas.

FNS appreciates New York's commitment to serving those in need of nutrition assistance and recognizes the challenges inherent in serving certain groups, including those at risk of losing benefits due to the time limit. The State agency can consider using 15 percent exemptions to extend eligibility for at-risk ABAWDs subject to the time limit in these areas. FNS also encourages States to engage in diligent, effective screening to ensure those excepted from the time limit are properly identified.

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FNS recently issued relevant guidance that New York may find useful:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/snap/ABAWD-Time-Limit-Policy-and-Program-Access-Memo-Nov2015.pdf>. If the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance would like to discuss additional strategies to better serve at-risk ABAWDs, FNS staff stands ready to provide technical assistance.

Conditions of Approval

FNS is approving the State agency's request to expand waiver number 2150029 to the cities of Binghamton and Syracuse under the same conditions provided by the November 10, 2015 approval. The waiver is effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

Regulatory or Legislative Basis for Action

The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this topic further, please contact Kevin Pasquaretta at kevin.pasquaretta@fns.usda.gov or Martha Cavanaugh at martha.cavanaugh@FNS.USDA.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lizbeth Silberman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lizbeth Silberman
Director
Program Development Division