



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SEP 08 2017

Kara Wentz
Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: SNAP – Ohio Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. Wentz:

This is in response to the Ohio State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 26 counties from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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 Ohio to waive the time limit in the 26 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2160001. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Bridget Kearney at Bridget.Kearney@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160001
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:** Ohio
6. **Region:** Midwest
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) 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 in has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

Proposed alternative procedures: The Ohio State agency is requesting to waive the ABAWD time limit in 26 counties from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon each of the 26 counties having an individual average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2015 through December 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.07 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.1 percent. As detailed in the following table, the unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.1 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2015 – December 2016*			
County	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
1. Adams	19,737	257,650	7.7%
2. Athens	41,638	671,895	6.2%
3. Belmont	51,022	742,869	6.9%
4. Carroll	20,410	320,716	6.4%
5. Columbiana	72,919	1,171,507	6.2%
6. Coshocton	24,603	369,771	6.7%
7. Gallia	19,234	292,455	6.6%
8. Guernsey	30,099	456,519	6.6%
9. Harrison	11,729	170,286	6.9%
10. Highland	25,519	404,519	6.3%
11. Huron	43,359	665,563	6.5%
12. Jackson	23,615	309,237	7.6%
13. Jefferson	54,720	698,012	7.8%
14. Lawrence	36,547	594,456	6.1%
15. Mahoning	158,018	2,551,349	6.2%
16. Meigs	17,937	216,852	8.3%
17. Monroe	13,600	129,377	10.5%
18. Morgan	12,447	161,395	7.7%
19. Muskingum	57,093	937,875	6.1%
20. Noble	9,382	118,628	7.9%
21. Ottawa	32,706	503,338	6.5%
22. Perry	24,349	381,472	6.4%
23. Pike	18,734	254,396	7.4%
24. Scioto	54,448	713,827	7.6%
25. Trumbull	142,994	2,180,504	6.6%
26. Washington	43,142	669,832	6.4%

*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on August 30, 2017.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Ohio State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 26 counties because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **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).

- 10. 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 and supporting documentation.
- 11. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.
- 12. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Ohio State agency.
- 13. Date of national office action:** **SEP 08 2017**
- 14. Date of State agency's request:** August 15, 2017
- 15. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 15, 2017
- 16. State agency contact:**
Betsy Suver
(614) 387-8302
Betsy.Suver@jfs.ohio.gov
- 17. FNS Regional Contact:**
Bridget Kearney
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