



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

AUG 31 2016

Benjamin Anderson
Chief
Bureau of Cash/Food Policy and Technical Support
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 Mr. Anderson:

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 16 counties from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

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 16 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 Sheena Panoor at Sheena.Panoor@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

RBE

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, provides 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) also provides 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 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 16 counties from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 16 counties having average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.72 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the unemployment rates for the requested areas reached or exceeded 6.9 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 – December 2015			
County	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
1. Adams	21,643	253,202	8.6%
2. Clinton	28,012	405,490	6.9%
3. Coshocton	26,326	381,915	6.9%
4. Gallia	20,953	295,215	7.1%
5. Highland	29,008	411,782	7.0%
6. Huron	48,607	664,515	7.3%
7. Jackson	25,704	314,624	8.2%
8. Jefferson	55,334	712,105	7.8%
9. Meigs	18,921	219,280	8.6%
10. Monroe	14,377	137,043	10.5%
11. Morgan	12,108	160,895	7.5%
12. Noble	9,002	120,213	7.5%
13. Ottawa	36,395	510,982	7.1%
14. Perry	26,334	381,233	6.9%
15. Pike	20,645	250,688	8.2%
16. Scioto	58,578	714,157	8.2%

*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on August 22, 2016.

- 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 16 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, 2016 through September 30, 2017.
- 12. Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Ohio State agency.

2160001

Page 3

13. Date of national office action: AUG 31 2016

14. Date of State agency's request: August 15, 2016

15. Date of regional office transmittal of request: August 15, 2016

16. State agency contact:

Benjamin Anderson

(614) 752-3531

Benjamin.Anderson@jfs.ohio.gov

17. FNS Regional Contact:

Sheena Panoor

(312) 886-5632

Sheena.Panoor@fns.usda.gov