



Food and
Nutrition
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Date: September 16, 2019

Ben Anderson
Chief

Bureau of Cash & Food Assistance Policy and Technical Assistance
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad St, Ste 32
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 August 15, 2019, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 42 counties from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

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 the State to waive the time limit for a 12-month period as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved counties, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

As you may be aware, FNS has proposed regulations that would strengthen the standards by which areas can qualify for these waivers so that the statutory ABAWD work requirement is applied more broadly. The rule, once finalized, could change the qualifying areas and approval period for this waiver.

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-of the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit.

Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Acting Director
Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

1. **Serial Number:** 2160001
2. **Request Type:** Modification and Extension
3. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Ohio
6. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Midwest
7. **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.
8. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Ohio State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in a total of 42 counties from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. The State agency has grouped 3 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area and has requested 39 counties individually. The State agency supported its request based upon the requested areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2017 through December 2018. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.1 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.9 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the unemployment rate for each individual or combined area was at least 4.9 percent during the selected time period.

Table 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, January 2017 through December 2018)

Counties
1. Hocking County, OH
2. Ross County, OH
3. Vinton County, OH
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.1%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on August 19, 2019

Table 2: Individual Counties (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, January 2017 through December 2018)

Counties	Unemployment
1. Adams County	7.1%
2. Ashtabula County	5.6%
3. Athens County	5.9%
4. Belmont County	5.9%
5. Brown County	5.5%
6. Carroll County	5.5%
7. Clinton County	5.4%
8. Columbiana County	5.6%
9. Coshocton County	6.5%
10. Crawford County	5.5%
11. Cuyahoga County	5.5%
12. Erie County	5.8%
13. Gallia County	6.4%
14. Guernsey County	5.8%
15. Harrison County	5.6%
16. Henry County	5.0%
17. Highland County	5.7%
18. Huron County	6.1%
19. Jackson County	6.8%
20. Jefferson County	6.8%
21. Lake County	4.9%
22. Lawrence County	5.8%
23. Lorain County	5.8%
24. Lucas County	5.6%
25. Mahoning County	6.4%
26. Meigs County	7.7%
27. Monroe County	8.1%
28. Morgan County	6.4%
29. Muskingum County	5.5%
30. Noble County	6.9%
31. Ottawa County	6.5%
32. Perry County	5.8%
33. Pike County	6.7%
34. Richland County	5.2%
35. Scioto County	6.9%
36. Stark County	5.0%
37. Summit County	4.9%
38. Trumbull County, OH	6.7%

Counties	Unemployment
39. Washington County, OH	5.9%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on August 19, 2019	

- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** October 1, 2019
- 12. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2020
- 13. Information Required for Amendment or 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.
- 14. State Agency Contact Information:**
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- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
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