



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DEC 20 2016

Ms. Lourdes Padilla
Deputy Secretary
Office of Income Maintenance
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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

Dear Ms. Padilla:

This is in response to the Pennsylvania State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 43 counties, 14 cities and towns, and one metropolitan division from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 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 Pennsylvania to waive the time limit in the 43 counties, 14 cities and towns, and one metropolitan division for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150045. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Katrina Vann at Katrina.Vann@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150045
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:** Pennsylvania
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Pennsylvania State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 43 counties, 14 cities and towns, and one metropolitan division from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Pennsylvania has grouped 41 contiguous counties for consideration as a combined area, and has supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of October 2014 through September 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.2 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.2 percent. As detailed in the following table, the combined area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 6.2 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data October 2014 through September 2016*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Armstrong County	54,690	804,379
Beaver County	124,597	2,068,394
Bedford County	34,178	582,563
Bradford County	44,935	760,049
Cambria County	98,249	1,497,558
Cameron County	3,826	54,586
Carbon County	45,342	762,397
Clarion County	25,839	437,495
Clearfield County	59,714	876,883
Clinton County	31,066	456,508
Columbia County	45,376	818,432
Crawford County	53,452	995,930
Erie County	187,906	3,241,379
Fayette County	106,995	1,409,704
Forest County	3,559	45,486
Fulton County	10,970	179,873
Greene County	28,029	442,028
Huntingdon County	32,734	474,370
Indiana County	65,261	1,007,829
Jefferson County	31,553	505,408
Juniata County	14,592	288,503
Lackawanna County	147,065	2,562,469
Lawrence County	64,046	1,016,713
Luzerne County	242,603	3,813,308
Lycoming County	89,627	1,460,579
McKean County	28,034	456,318
Mercer County	71,124	1,276,844
Mifflin County	28,507	505,742
Monroe County	123,162	1,943,607
Northumberland County	64,134	1,048,775
Pike County	38,691	606,977
Potter County	12,918	180,583
Schuylkill County	101,183	1,641,245
Somerset County	57,099	826,828
Sullivan County	4,614	74,057
Susquehanna County	28,561	520,233
Tioga County	32,480	492,844
Venango County	36,525	586,163
Washington County	146,108	2,566,172
Wayne County	31,049	537,263
Wyoming County	20,739	343,103

Combined Area Totals	2,471,012	40,169,577
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.2%	

Pennsylvania has also requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in two counties not part of the combined contiguous area. These two counties are included in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Division and, based upon unemployment data for this geographical region published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, also had an aggregate unemployment rate of a least 6.2 percent during the specified 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data October 2014 through September 2016*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Philadelphia Metropolitan Division (Philadelphia and Delaware Counties)	1,502,853	23,865,127
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.3%	

*All Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 5, 2016.

Pennsylvania has also requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in three Minor Civil Divisions, designated by the State's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. These districts each had an aggregate unemployment rate equal to or greater than 6.2 percent during the specified 24-month time period.

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. L&I Data October 2014 through September 2016**			
County	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Harrisburg City	36,280	520,975	7.0%
Lebanon City	18,912	281,826	6.7%
Chambersburg borough (Franklin County)	14,597	235,339	6.2%

Pennsylvania has also requested to waive the time limit in four groups of combined Minor Civil Divisions for the same 24-month time period. Each contiguous group had a combined aggregate unemployment rate equal to or greater than 6.2 percent during the specified 24-month time period.

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. L&I Data October 2014 through September 2016**		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Allentown City	97,063	1,295,803
Easton City	19,304	286,893
Bethlehem City (Lehigh and Northampton Counties)	51,979	890,823
Bethlehem township	13,911	312,370
Whitehall township	17,696	364,396
Combined Area Totals	199,953	3,150,285
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.3%	

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. L&I Data October 2014 through September 2016**		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
York City	37,278	430,443
Springettsbury township (York County)	15,302	314,785
Combined Area Totals	52,580	745,228
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.1%	

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. of L&I Data October 2014 through September 2016**		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Reading City	61,366	826,190
Muhlenberg township	11,929	264,018
Combined Area Totals	73,295	1,090,208
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. of L&I Data October 2014 through September 2016**		
Jurisdiction	Unemployed	Labor Force
McKeesport City	14,635	193,428
West Mifflin borough	14,301	244,058
Combined Area Totals	28,936	437,486
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

**Data based on information submitted by the State from the Center for Workforce Information attached with the State's request of December 5, 2016.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Pennsylvania State agency request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 58 areas because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
10. **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).
11. **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.
12. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.
13. **Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Pennsylvania State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** DEC 20 2016
15. **Date of State agency's request:** December 2, 2016
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 5, 2016
17. **State agency contact:**
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18. **FNS Regional Contact:**
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