



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
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JAN 18 2017

Ms. Kimberly A. Nikolaidis
Assistant SNAP Administrator
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building
57 Howard Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

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

Dear Ms. Nikolaidis:

This is in response to the Rhode Island State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Rhode Island is currently approved to waive the time limit Statewide through December 31, 2017, under waiver number 2150035. The State agency has now requested to implement a new 12-month waiver covering only 38 areas, effective September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018, based upon updated unemployment data.

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 Rhode Island to waive the time limit in the 38 areas for the requested 12-month period. Effective September 1, 2017, this approval amends and extends waiver number 2150035 and replaces the December 30, 2015, approval of the same number. The attached waiver response includes the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. Please contact Kevin Pasquaretta at Kevin.Pasquaretta@fns.usda.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sasha Gersten-Paol
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150035
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:** Rhode Island
6. **Region:** Northeast
7. **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 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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Rhode Island State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 38 contiguous cities or towns from September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 38 cities or towns having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. During this 24-month period, the national average unemployment rate was 5.72 percent; 20 percent above this is 6.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, combined 38 city/town area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 6.9 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
January 2014 – December 2015*		
City or Town	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Barrington town	9,209	200,775
2. Bristol town	17,762	290,960
3. Burrillville town	14,676	214,456
4. Central Falls city	17,729	206,807
5. Charlestown town	7,646	99,137
6. Coventry town	29,717	452,165
7. Cranston city	67,639	994,538
8. Cumberland town	25,739	463,660
9. East Greenwich town	9,923	164,889
10. East Providence city	42,749	584,023
11. Exeter town	5,660	94,320
12. Foster town	4,473	69,436
13. Gloucester town	7,379	142,250
14. Hopkinton town	7,818	114,465
15. Jamestown town	3,568	77,220
16. Johnston town	26,987	375,872
17. Lincoln town	16,851	293,253
18. Little Compton town	2,435	45,418
19. Middletown town	11,350	191,515
20. Narragansett town	10,101	219,405
21. New Shoreham town	2,770	19,732
22. Newport city	18,810	321,801
23. North Kingston town	19,032	352,383
24. North Providence town	29,984	431,764
25. North Smithfield town	9,120	162,267
26. Pawtucket city	69,235	875,301
27. Portsmouth town	13,103	212,390
28. Providence city	167,775	2,082,962
29. Scituate town	9,311	147,102
30. Smithfield town	16,795	270,669
31. South Kingston town	24,535	397,370
32. Tiverton town	13,445	210,485
33. Warren town	9,472	137,843
34. Warwick city	66,544	1,107,695
35. West Greenwich town	4,961	76,785
36. West Warwick town	28,430	389,161
37. Westerly town	23,211	275,575
38. Woonsocket city	40,075	457,786
Totals	906,019	13,223,635
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on January 17, 2017

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Rhode Island State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time throughout the State, because the areas 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 as supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on Regional Office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Rhode Island State agency.
- 14. Date of National Office action:** **JAN 18 2017**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** January 13, 2017
- 16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** January 17, 2017
- 17. State agency contact:**
Iwona Ramian, Esquire
Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov
(401) 462-6410
- 18. FNS regional contact:**
Kevin Pasquaretta
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(617) 565-5402