



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria VA,
22314

March 29, 2022

Bethany Caputo
SNAP Administrator
Department of Human Services
25 Howard Avenue
Louis Pasteur Building
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Rhode Island Request to Waive
Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval**

Dear Administrator Caputo:

This is in response to the Rhode Island agency's February 16, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. This approval replaces Rhode Island's current Statewide ABAWD waiver approved for July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

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 the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. David Noble".
FCBEAB537152496...

J. David Noble
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

Enclosure

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** Rhode Island
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
- 6. 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.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to replace an approved Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit that expires on July 31, 2022 (WIMS Case 00001805), with a Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit through May 31, 2023. The State agency supported its request based upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for statewide waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. According to the Department of Labor Trigger Notice No. 2021-23, effective June 20, 2021, the State qualified for extended unemployment benefits.¹
- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. FNS will terminate Rhode Island's existing waiver of the ABAWD time limit (WIMS Case 00001805) as of May 31, 2022. FNS is approving this waiver for implementation from June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 9. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 10. Implementation Date:** June 1, 2022
- 11. Expiration Date:** May 31, 2023
- 12. Information Required for Modification or New Waiver:** To receive a modification or new initial waiver 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.

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp. Trigger notice 2021-23 was issued the week of June 20, 2021.

Page 2

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