



AUG 25 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Ms. Virginia Hanson
Division of Economic Assistance
South Dakota Department of Social Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2291

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

Dear Ms. Hanson:

This is in response to the South Dakota State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 15 counties and 7 reservations, from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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 South Dakota to waive the time limit for the jurisdictions for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 990074. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Herrman at Kathie.Herrman@fns.usda.gov or Philip Fraley at Philip.Fraley@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Wavier serial number:** 990047
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:** South Dakota
6. **Region:** Mountain Plains
7. **Regulatory 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 (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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The South Dakota State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 15 counties and 7 reservations from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The State agency has supported its request of the 15 county area based upon the area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2015 through March 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.95 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the requested area's aggregate unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 5.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 – March 2017*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
1. Bennett	1,099	27,318
2. Buffalo	1,278	17,312
3. Campbell	568	20,605
4. Corson	1,571	35,604
5. Dewey	5,109	54,248
6. Hyde	456	17,135
7. Jackson	1,329	31,780
8. Jones	347	13,883
9. Lyman	1,897	42,843
10. Mellette	783	18,763
11. Oglala Lakota	9,083	87,038
12. Stanley	1,093	44,684
13. Todd	4,659	73,140
14. Walworth	2,585	53,645
15. Ziebach	1,039	23,621
Total for Region	32,896	561,619
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	5.9%	

*Based on data retrieved from the Bureau of Labor Statistics August 8, 2017.

The State is also requesting to waive six reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period of May 2015 to April 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.9 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the requested areas' unemployment rates for the selected time period reached, or exceeded, 5.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data / Census Bureau Data**	
Reservations	Unemployment Rate: May 2015 through April 2017
Cheyenne	7.8%
Crow	10.3%
Flandreau	9.1%
Lower Brule	11.0%
Pine Ridge	8.6%
Rosebud Indian Reservation	6.3%

**Based on data retrieved from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the American Community Survey on August 8, 2017

Finally, FNS is approving the State's request to waive the time limit in the Yankton Reservation based upon having a low and declining employment-to-population ratio over the 2012 to 2016 time period. The Yankton's employment-to-population ratio was almost 7 percentage points below the national average in the final year of the reference period, and the County's ratio showed a decline over the reference period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data/Census Bureau Data Employment to Population Ratio***						
Geography	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percentage Point Difference 2012-2016
Yankton Reservation	53.2%	52.8%	53.4%	52.7%	51.6%	-1.6%
United States	57.3%	57.3%	57.3%	57.8%	58.2%	.9%

***Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates on August 8, 2017.

9. Action and reason for approval or denial: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the South Dakota State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 15 counties and 7 reservations 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 October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

13. Limitation, if any, on Regional Office approval of like requests: The waiver is limited to the South Dakota State agency.

14. Date of National Office action:

15. Date of State agency's request: June 30, 2017

16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request: June 30, 2017

17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS Regional contact:

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