



SEP 06 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Charles Bryson
Assistant Commissioner, Family Assistance and Child Support
State of Tennessee
Department of Human Services
Citizen's Plaza Building
400 Deadrick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

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

Dear Mr. Bryson:

This is in response to the Tennessee State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 16 counties from February 1, 2018, through January 31, 2019.

Tennessee is currently approved to waive the time limit in 86 counties through February 28, 2018. The State agency has now requested a new 12-month waiver covering only 16 counties, effective February 1, 2018 through January 1, 2019.

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 Tennessee to waive the time limit in the 16 counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2160026 and replaces the January 18, 2017, approval of the same number. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Yolaunda Daniel at Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160026
2. **Type of request:** Extension and amendment
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:** Tennessee
6. **Region:** Southeast
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 (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 Tennessee State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 16 counties from February 1, 2018, through January 31, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 16 counties having been declared Labor Surplus Areas (LSAs) for Fiscal Year 2017 by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

Labor Surplus Areas 2017	
U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration	
County	
1.	Bledsoe
2.	Campbell
3.	Claiborne
4.	Cocke
5.	Fentress
6.	Grundy
7.	Hancock
8.	Hardeman
9.	Haywood
10.	Lake
11.	Lauderdale
12.	McNairy
13.	Perry
14.	Scott
15.	Van Buren
16.	Wayne

*Data extracted from www.doleta.gov/programs/lisa.cfm on September 5, 2017.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Tennessee State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 16 counties 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 and supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective February 1, 2018, through January 1, 2019.
- 13. Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Tennessee State agency.

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14. Date of national office action: **SEP 06 2017**

15. Date of State agency's request: August 2, 2017

16. Date of regional office transmittal of request: August 2, 2017

17. State agency contact:

Lisa Cowell

(615) 741-5934

Lisa.Cowell@tn.gov

18. FNS regional contacts:

Yolaunda Daniel

(404) 562-1815

Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov