



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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MAR 11 2016

Tracy L. Bell
Chief Officer
Workforce Development, Employment, and Transformation
Commissioner's Office
Tennessee Department of Human Services
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

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

Dear Mr. Bell:

This is in response to the Tennessee Department of Human Services' request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) effective March 1, 2016. The Tennessee State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit in 86 contiguous counties based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State demonstrates that the combined area's aggregate average unemployment rate reached 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month period. Therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 86 requested counties for a 12-month period, effective March 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017.

The attached response lists all 86 counties and details the terms and conditions of the waiver 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

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160026
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Tennessee
5. **Region:** Southeast
6. **Regulatory requirement:** Federal 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. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating and complying with a workfare program.

Regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The Tennessee Department of Human Services has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in 86 contiguous counties effective March 1, 2016. The Tennessee State agency has supported its request to waive the time limit based upon the 86-county area having an aggregate average unemployment rate that reached 20 percent above the national average from May 2013 through April 2015. During this 24-month period the national average unemployment rate was 6.4 percent; 20 percent above this is 7.7 percent. As detailed in the following table, the 86 counties qualify based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month time period.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through
April 2015***

County	Unemployed	Labor Force
1. Anderson County	56,513	801,113
2. Bedford County	36,424	470,555
3. Benton County	14,758	162,369
4. Bledsoe County	9,299	102,180
5. Blount County	87,364	1,410,874
6. Bradley County	74,365	1,168,924
7. Campbell County	34,789	360,119
8. Cannon County	9,330	141,076
9. Carroll County	31,736	303,543
10. Carter County	45,822	580,303
11. Chester County	14,163	195,095
12. Claiborne County	27,932	305,584
13. Clay County	7,122	72,464
14. Cocke County	33,191	351,326
15. Coffee County	38,799	589,151
16. Crockett County	13,293	164,823
17. Cumberland County	46,002	553,422
18. Decatur County	11,238	115,776
19. DeKalb County	14,906	177,975
20. Dickson County	37,359	570,052
21. Dyer County	35,221	401,438
22. Fayette County	33,155	427,034
23. Fentress County	14,894	173,018
24. Franklin County	29,909	470,717
25. Gibson County	48,416	514,618
26. Giles County	22,993	341,765
27. Grainger County	18,886	221,982
28. Greene County	60,796	717,109

29. Grundy County	11,529	123,701
30. Hamblen County	48,721	637,468
31. Hamilton County	258,417	3,968,740
32. Hancock County	5,205	50,162
33. Hardeman County	22,580	230,767
34. Hardin County	23,334	254,363
35. Hawkins County	43,751	578,545
36. Haywood County	19,420	188,251
37. Henderson County	27,258	295,680
38. Henry County	28,342	335,707
39. Hickman County	17,493	250,416
40. Houston County	7,972	79,520
41. Humphreys County	16,267	201,705
42. Jackson County	9,824	107,624
43. Jefferson County	43,307	552,372
44. Johnson County	12,826	172,368
45. Lake County	4,751	51,118
46. Lauderdale County	24,497	238,868
47. Lawrence County	36,533	426,287
48. Lewis County	10,887	118,042
49. Loudon County	35,903	524,275
50. McMinn County	42,544	539,347
51. McNairy County	23,400	218,156
52. Macon County	16,402	239,547
53. Madison County	80,376	1,121,854
54. Marion County	22,885	281,847
55. Marshall County	23,459	345,674
56. Maury County	62,371	981,115
57. Meigs County	10,562	117,791

58. Monroe County	37,250	458,127
59. Montgomery County	127,275	1,843,417
60. Morgan County	17,221	190,753
61. Obion County	31,424	314,100
62. Overton County	18,217	221,495
63. Perry County	6,160	73,643
64. Pickett County	4,949	55,242
65. Polk County	14,452	177,297
66. Putnam County	54,500	772,018
67. Rhea County	28,504	317,702
68. Roane County	42,439	548,609
69. Robertson County	47,305	805,839
70. Scott County	24,469	199,113
71. Sequatchie County	10,573	138,786
72. Sevier County	86,727	1,170,417
73. Shelby County	835,402	10,361,776
74. Smith County	13,463	203,628
75. Stewart County	11,944	125,880
76. Sullivan County	115,336	1,686,058
77. Tipton County	56,281	658,387
78. Trousdale County	6,419	87,369
79. Unicoi County	15,969	173,209
80. Union County	14,061	174,802
81. Van Buren County	5,147	50,926
82. Warren County	30,470	415,112
83. Washington County	90,386	1,386,540
84. Wayne County	13,877	15,5281
85. Weakley County	34,677	384,533
86. White County	22,109	277,798

Combined Area Total	371,6497	48,523,572
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.7%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Threshold	7.7%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on March 10, 2016

8. Action and reason for approval or denial: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in all 86 counties because the areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. The requested area had an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 2015.

9. Regulatory or legislative basis for action: The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).

10. Conditions and reasons: None.

11. Information required for an extension: To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests an extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.

12. Expiration date: The waiver extension is effective March 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017.

13. Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests: The waiver is limited to the Tennessee State agency.

14. Date of national office action: MAR 11 2016

15. Date of State agency's request: March 9, 2016

16. Date of regional office transmittal of request: March 9, 2016

17. Implementation date: March 1, 2016

18. State agency contact:
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19. FNS regional contacts:

Yolaunda Daniel

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