



JAN 18 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Ms. Keisha Malone
Director of Operations
Family Assistance and Child Support Division
State of Tennessee
Department of Human Services
Citizens Plaza Building
400 Deadrick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

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

Dear Ms. Malone:

This is in response to the Tennessee State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 86 areas from March 1, 2017, through February 28, 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 Tennessee to waive the time limit in the 86 areas for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2160026. 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
FOR

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2160026
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:** Tennessee
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides 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) also provides 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 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 86 contiguous counties from March 1, 2017, through February 28, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2014 through January 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.8 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the combined 86 county area reached 6.8 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2014 through January 2016*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
1. Anderson County	50,100	799,750
2. Bedford County	32,184	467,563
3. Benton County	13,335	162,320
4. Bledsoe County	8,557	102,733
5. Blount County	79,060	1,423,950
6. Bradley County	66,492	1,182,790
7. Campbell County	30,313	354,970

8. Cannon County	8,410	140,878
9. Carroll County	27,121	296,680
10. Carter County	40,148	570,272
11. Chester County	12,412	195,966
12. Claiborne County	23,819	304,837
13. Clay County	6,420	72,084
14. Coker County	28,992	348,384
15. Coffee County	34,440	585,391
16. Crockett County	11,522	164,810
17. Cumberland County	41,416	553,541
18. Decatur County	9,897	113,964
19. DeKalb County	13,249	178,138
20. Dickson County	33,269	573,453
21. Dyer County	30,564	400,572
22. Fayette County	28,532	427,679
23. Fentress County	13,222	169,179
24. Franklin County	26,514	470,777
25. Gibson County	41,011	507,455
26. Giles County	19,056	346,217
27. Grainger County	16,232	221,572
28. Greene County	52,722	732,047
29. Grundy County	10,202	119,817
30. Hamblen County	42,673	635,507
31. Hamilton County	228,993	3,992,991
32. Hancock County	4,887	49,847
33. Hancock County	4,887	49,847
34. Hardin County	19,928	248,541
35. Hawkins County	38,774	570,015
36. Haywood County	16,725	185,280
37. Henderson County	24,462	293,745
38. Henry County	24,228	334,822
39. Hickman County	15,171	250,549
40. Houston County	7,256	78,189
41. Humphreys County	14,779	202,813
42. Jackson County	8,853	107,280
43. Jefferson County	38,023	556,313
44. Johnson County	10,836	174,022
45. Lake County	4,340	48,847
46. Lauderdale County	21,823	233,794
47. Lawrence County	31,034	424,033
48. Lewis County	9,427	115,963
49. Loudon County	31,894	525,772
50. Macon County	13,919	240,586
51. Madison County	70,673	1,119,380
52. Marion County	20,547	281,512
53. Marshall County	20,759	350,753

54. Maury County	55,244	1,000,499
55. McMinn County	37,289	541,343
56. McNairy County	20,103	212,978
57. Meigs County	9,419	116,854
58. Monroe County	31,320	457,572
59. Montgomery County	116,188	1,868,387
60. Moore County	3,795	79,358
61. Morgan County	15,188	187,789
62. Obion County	27,596	303,597
63. Overton County	16,267	218,396
64. Perry County	5,527	74,055
65. Pickett County	4,624	56,439
66. Polk County	12,697	177,200
67. Putnam County	49,053	775,562
68. Rhea County	24,948	316,928
69. Roane County	37,935	544,632
70. Scott County	20,240	195,674
71. Sequatchie County	9,621	138,637
72. Sevier County	77,450	1,191,083
73. Shelby County	723,921	10,326,048
74. Smith County	12,008	202,680
75. Stewart County	10,433	124,525
76. Sullivan County	103,714	1,670,227
77. Tipton County	50,275	657,332
78. Trousdale County	5,639	88,954
79. Unicoi County	14,539	170,383
80. Union County	12,599	174,161
81. Van Buren County	4,375	50,054
82. Warren County	26,002	424,445
83. Washington County	82,353	1,386,790
84. Wayne County	12,196	153,364
85. Weakley County	28,958	378,251
86. White County	18,267	273,566
Total for Region	3,213,885	47,595,953
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.8%	

*Data extracted from www.bls.gov on January 18, 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 86 jurisdictions 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 March 1, 2017, through February 28, 2018.
- 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:** **JAN 18 2017**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** January 6, 2017
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** January 6, 2017
- 17. State agency contact:**
Lisa Cowell
Lisa.Cowell@tn.gov
(615) 741-5934
- 18. FNS regional contacts:**
Yolaunda Daniel
Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov
(404) 562-1815