



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

JUL 07 2014

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Casey Erickson
Deputy Director
Utah Department of Workforce Services
140 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

RE: SNAP - Utah Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents Time Limits for FY 2015 - Approval

Dear Deputy Director Erickson:

This is in response to the Utah Department of Workforce Services' request to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in Garfield, San Juan and Wayne counties from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. Along with its request, the State agency provided information from the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration showing that all three counties have been declared labor surplus areas (LSAs).

FNS is approving this request for a one year period, from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, as the supporting documentation provided by the State agency meets all requirements for approval following SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2). A detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Herrman at Kathie.Herrman@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Weber
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2140019
2. **Type of Request:** Initial
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Utah
5. **Region:** Mountain Plains
6. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal 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 three months during any three year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 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 or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Regulations at 7CFR 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 State of Utah is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in Garfield, San Juan and Wayne counties from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** FNS is approving the Utah State agency's request to waive ABAWD time limits as the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii).
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension of this waiver, the State agency must provide a waiver request along with data or other supporting documentation as described in 273.24(f).

12. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective beginning October 1, 2014 and will expire on September 30, 2015.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Utah Department of Workforce Services.
14. **Date of national office action:** JUL 07 2014
15. **Date of State agency's request:** June 18, 2014
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** June 30, 2014
17. **Implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** October 1, 2014
18. **State agency contact:**
Paul Birkbeck
pbirkbec@utah.gov
801-580-0152
19. **FNS regional contact:**
Kathie Herrman
Kathie.Herrman@fns.usda.gov
303-438-9780