



SEP 16 2015

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Casey Cameron
Deputy Director
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 Limit – Extension and Modification – Approval

Dear Deputy Director Cameron:

This is in response to the Utah Department of Workforce Services' request to extend and modify waiver number 2140019, which would allow Utah to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) in Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Wayne Counties from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 for fiscal year 2016. Utah's current ABAWD time limit waiver is effective in Garfield, San Juan, and Wayne Counties through September 30, 2015.

Utah has supported its request based upon the combined area of Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Wayne Counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 2015, a criterion for waiver approval provided by Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. 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 is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the four counties for 12 months, effective October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016. The detailed waiver response is attached. This waiver approval replaces the State agency's August 6, 2015 approval, which included only Garfield, Grand, and San Juan Counties. 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

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2140019
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
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 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 Utah State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 in Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Wayne Counties October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016. Utah has supported its extension request based upon the combined area of Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Wayne Counties having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 2015, a criterion for waiver approval provided by Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2013 through April 2015*		
County	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Total
Garfield	65,932	5,825
Grand	132,295	8,704
San Juan	135,579	10,391
Wayne	33,506	3,253
Combined Area Total	367,312	28,173
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.7%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	7.7%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 27, 2015

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 four counties because the combined area meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. Garfield, Grand, San Juan, and Wayne Counties qualify for the waiver extension because the combined 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 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 October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the Utah State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:**

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15. **Date of State agency's request:** August 5, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 5, 2015
17. **Implementation date:** October 1, 2015
18. **State agency contact:**
Erin Cockerham
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ecockerham@utah.gov
19. **FNS regional contacts:**
Kathie Herrman
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