



Food and
Nutrition
Service

AUG 15 2016

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Mr. Casey Cameron
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 Limit – Approval

Dear Deputy Director Cameron:

This is in response to the Utah State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in six counties from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

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 Utah to waive the time limit in the six requested counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval extends waiver number 2140019. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions, please contact Philip Fraley at Philip.Fraley@fns.usda.gov or Kathie Herrman at Kathie.Herrman@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2140019
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
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:** Utah
6. **Region:** Mountain Plains
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 (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) 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 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 Utah State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in six contiguous counties from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The State agency has supported its request based upon the six county combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following table, the six county combined area's aggregate average unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 6.7 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2013 – March 2016*		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Carbon	11,475	209,899
Emery	6,253	107,926
Garfield	5,790	66,344
Piute	740	11,103
San Juan	10,645	136,120
Wayne	3,022	33,864
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	
20% Above National Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on July 20, 2016

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Utah State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the six 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 as supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.
- 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:** AUG 15 2016
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** July 7, 2016
- 16. Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 8, 2016

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17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS regional contact:

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