



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Center

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Alexandria
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Date: September 5, 2018

Casey Cameron

Deputy Director

State of Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 August 13, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in San Juan County from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

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 the State to waive the time limit in the area for a 12-month period, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved area, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal

Chief

Certification Policy Branch

Program Development Division

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

- 1. Serial Number:** 2140019
- 2. Request Type:** Extension and amendment
- 3. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 4. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 5. State:** Utah
- 6. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mountain Plains
- 7. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 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 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Utah State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in San Juan County from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based on the county having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of July 2016 through June 2018. During this time period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.3 percent. During this time period, the requested area's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent¹.
- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** October 1, 2018
- 12. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2019

¹ Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and validated by FNS on August 14, 2018.

13. Information Required for Amendment or 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.

14. State Agency Contact Information:

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15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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