



Food and
Nutrition
Service

AUG 20 2014

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Mr. Thomas J. Steinhauser
Division of Benefit Programs Director
Virginia Department of Social Services
801 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2901

RE: SNAP – Virginia Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limits – Approval

Dear Mr. Steinhauser:

This is in response to the Virginia Department of Social Services' request for a 12-month waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 23 jurisdictions from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

The Virginia State agency has requested to exempt ABAWDs in 19 of the 23 jurisdictions based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013. Based upon the Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State, the 19 jurisdictions qualify for an ABAWD waiver because the combined area's aggregate average unemployment rate reaches 20 percent above the national average for the selected 24-month period. The qualifying combined area is composed of the following 19 jurisdictions: Brunswick County, Carroll County, Charlotte County, Danville City, Emporia City, Franklin City, Galax City, Grayson County, Greensville County, Halifax County, Henry County, Lunenburg County, Martinsville City, Mecklenburg County, Patrick County, Prince Edward County, Smyth County, Surry County, and Sussex County.

The State agency has also requested to exempt ABAWDs in Dickinson County, Page County, Petersburg City, and Williamsburg City. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data provided by the State supports this request based upon each of the four jurisdictions having an unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013.

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Therefore, based upon a review of the data provided, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving this waiver for all 23 of the requested jurisdictions for a 12-month period, effective May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015. A detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Jacober-Brown at Sally.Jacob-Brown@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



 Autumn McCain
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2140016
2. **Type of Request:** Initial
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Virginia
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
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 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 Virginia State Agency has proposed to exempt individuals in 23 jurisdictions from ABAWD participation time limits. As detailed in the table below, 19 jurisdictions qualify based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013. During this time period the national average for unemployment was 7.9 percent; 20 percent above this is 9.4 percent.

19 Combined Jurisdictions	Unemployment Rate: November 2011 – October 2013
Brunswick County	10.4%
Carroll County	8.2%
Charlotte County	8.2%
Danville City	10.3%
Emporia City	11.5%
Franklin City	10.0%
Galax City	9.1%
Grayson County	9.5%
Greensville County	9.0%
Halifax County	9.4%
Henry County	9.6%
Lunenburg County	8.3%
Martinsville City	15.4%
Mecklenburg County	9.8%
Patrick County	7.8%
Prince Edward County	8.7%
Smyth County	8.8%
Surry County	7.2%
Sussex County	8.2%
Combined Area	9.4%
20% Above National Average Threshold	9.4%

The State agency has also requested to exempt ABAWDs in Dickinson County, Page County, Petersburg City, and Williamsburg City. As detailed in the table below, these four areas qualify based upon each individual jurisdiction having an average unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013.

4 Individual Jurisdictions	Unemployment Rate: November 2011 – October 2013
Dickinson County	9.6%
Page County	9.8%
Petersburg City	11.1%
Williamsburg City	12.9%
20% Above National Average Threshold	9.4%

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving this waiver for all 23 requested jurisdictions. The 19 jurisdictions of Brunswick County, Carroll County, Charlotte County, Danville City, Emporia City, Franklin City, Galax City, Grayson County, Greensville County, Halifax County, Henry County, Lunenburg County, Martinsville City, Mecklenburg County, Patrick County, Prince Edward County, Smyth County, Surry County, and Sussex County qualify based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013. Furthermore, Dickinson County, Page County, Petersburg City, and Williamsburg City qualify based upon each individual jurisdiction having an average unemployment rates exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of November 2011 through October 2013. The data submitted by the State agency meets the requirements of approval pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i),(ii) and (iii).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 273.24(f)(2) and (f)(3). If Virginia wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide FNS with a waiver request along all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** This waiver is effective beginning May 1, 2014 and will expire on April 30, 2015.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Virginia Department of Social Services.
14. **Quality control procedures:** None
15. **Date of national office action:** ~~AUG 20 2014~~
16. **Date of State agency's request:** April 29, 2014; additional supporting data received July 9, 2014
17. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** May 5, 2014
18. **Implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** May 1, 2014

- 19. State agency contact:**
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- 20. FNS regional contact:**
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