



MAR 10 2017

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

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

RE: SNAP – Virginia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without
Dependents Time Limit – Approval

Dear Mr. Steinhauser:

This is in response to the Virginia State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 53 areas from May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2018.

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 Virginia to waive the time limit in the 53 areas for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2140016. The enclosed waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Geraldine Alphe-Igiehon Daniel at Geraldine.Alphe-Igiehon@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2140016
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
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:** Virginia
6. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
7. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and 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. 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 in 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 Virginia State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 53 areas from May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. The State agency has grouped the individual areas for consideration as two respective combined areas, and has supported its request based upon each combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016. One combined area is composed of 51 economically tied counties and cities in the southern part of the State; the second combined area is composed of two counties in the Shenandoah Valley that share the same economic region. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.45 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.5 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the two combined areas had an aggregate unemployment rate of 6.5 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
May 2014 – April 2016**

County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Accomack County	21,664	381,980
2. Alleghany County	9,110	170,415
3. Bland County	3,915	67,549
4. Bristol city	10,187	183,029
5. Brunswick County	10,766	152,182
6. Buchanan County	19,198	179,372
7. Buckingham County	9,135	152,549
8. Carroll County	17,633	314,689
9. Charles City County	4,838	90,168
10. Charlotte County	7,451	125,326
11. Covington city	3,849	58,671
12. Craig County	3,324	58,508
13. Cumberland County	5,958	108,911
14. Danville city	34,732	458,933
15. Dickenson County	12,112	120,463
16. Emporia city	3,999	54,483
17. Franklin city	6,017	87,073
18. Galax city	4,163	71,278
19. Grayson County	10,530	167,564
20. Greensville County	5,694	100,929
21. Halifax County	24,462	367,526
22. Hampton city	96,186	1,566,073
23. Henry County	35,842	537,879
24. Hopewell city	17,998	232,985
25. Lancaster County	8,455	123,686
26. Lee County	15,496	208,023
27. Lunenburg County	6,808	127,417
28. Martinsville city	11,448	129,600
29. Mecklenburg County	19,594	300,934
30. Northampton County	9,311	145,018
31. Northumberland County	8,341	131,513
32. Norton city	2,992	42,257
33. Patrick County	10,570	183,098
34. Petersburg city	30,717	331,746
35. Pittsylvania County	40,153	722,205
36. Portsmouth city	69,650	1,074,441
37. Prince Edward County	15,805	234,372
38. Prince George County	19,723	357,774
39. Pulaski County	21,463	394,813
40. Richmond County	4,428	93,807
41. Russell County	19,123	276,076

42. Scott County	12,368	232,926
43. Smyth County	21,742	324,989
44. Surry County	4,925	88,529
45. Sussex County	6,896	99,028
46. Tazewell County	30,985	401,662
47. Washington County	32,754	656,043
48. Westmoreland County	11,915	213,818
49. Williamsburg city	10,238	157,973
50. Wise County	29,321	337,043
51. Wythe County	18,845	328,516
Total	872,829	13,525,842
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.5%	

*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on February 23, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2014 – April 2016		
County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Bath County	2,526	61,452
2. Page County	19,663	280,668
Total	22,189	342,120
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.5%	

*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on February 23, 2017.

- 9. Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Virginia State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 53 areas, because the jurisdictions 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 and supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.

13. Limitation if any on Regional Office approval of like requests: The waiver is limited to the Virginia State agency.

14. Date of National Office action: MAR 10 2017

15. Date of State agency's request: February 10, 2017

16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request: February 10, 2017

17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS Regional Contact:

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