



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

April 25, 2023

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Angela Morse
Director
Division of Benefit Programs
Department of Social Services
801 East Main St.
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2901

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Virginia Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Director Morse:

This is in response to the Virginia Department of Social Services' April 21, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


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For

Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

1. **Request Type:** Initial
2. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
3. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Virginia
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mid-Atlantic
6. **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.
7. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in five localities and a regional grouping of nine counties and cities from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The State agency supported its request based upon the five individual localities each having an average unemployment rate of 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2020 through November 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the localities was 5.9 percent respectively during the 24-month period (Table 1).

The State agency supported its request based upon nine counties and cities as one combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2020 through November 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 5.5 percent during the 24-month period. (Table 2)

The State agency requested to waive the time limit for five individual localities and one grouping of nine counties and cities for consideration as one combined area.

Enclosure
Page 2

Table 1: Localities (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 – November 2022)*

Localities	Unemployment Rate
1. Buchanan County	6.0%
2. Danville City	5.8%
3. Franklin City	5.9%
4. Martinsville City	6.5%
5. Portsmouth City	5.8%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on April 18, 2022

Table 2: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment December 2020 – November 2022)*

Counties and Cities	Unemployment Rate
1. Brunswick County	5.6%
2. Dinwiddie County	4.0%
3. Emporia City	6.7%
4. Greenville County	4.2%
5. Hopewell City	6.5%
6. Nottoway County	3.3%
7. Petersburg City	9.1%
8. Prince George County	4.1%
9. Sussex County	5.8%
Combined Areas Unemployment Rate	5.5%

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on April 18, 2022

8. **FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
9. **Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
10. **Implementation Date:** July 1, 2023
11. **Expiration Date:** June 30, 2024
12. **Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:** To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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.

Enclosure

Page 3

13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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