



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: November 9, 2018

Natalie Bailey
Administrator
Division of Family Assistance
Department of Human Services
1303 Hospital Ground, STE. 1
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – U.S. Virgin Islands Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Partial Approval

Dear Ms. Bailey:

This is in response to the U.S. Virgin Islands State agency's October 23, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents throughout the Territory from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. While the State requested to waive the time limit for 2 years, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving this waiver for a 12-month period, consistent with other ABAWD waiver approvals.

The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance. Therefore, FNS is approving the State to waive the time limit for a 12-month period. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, 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:** 2150046
- 2. Request Type:** Extension
- 3. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 4. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 5. State:** U.S. Virgin Islands
- 6. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Mid-Atlantic
- 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 U.S. Virgin Islands State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time throughout the Territory from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the Territory having an average unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for a recent 24-month period of August 2016 through July 2018. Though the State provided 24 months of data, FNS has considered only the most recent 12 months of data. The aggregate unemployment rate for the requested area during the 12-month period of August 2017 through July 2018 was 11.2 percent.¹
- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency 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.
- 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:** January 1, 2019
- 12. Expiration Date:** December 31, 2019

¹ Extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <http://www.vidol.gov> October 24, 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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