



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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AUG 18 2017

Aletha Hayden
3SquaresVT Administrator
Food and Nutrition Programs
Department for Children and Families
Division of Economic Services
HC 1 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201

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

Dear Ms. Hayden:

This is in response to the Vermont State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 35 jurisdictions from October 1, 2017, through September 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 Vermont to waive the time limit for the jurisdictions requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2130033. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Krebs at Ashley.Krebs@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Wavier serial number:** 2130033
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:** Vermont
6. **Region:** Northeast
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at 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) 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The Vermont State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 35 jurisdictions from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon the selected areas having an individual or aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2015 through March 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.95 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the requested area's aggregate unemployment rate for the selected time period reached 5.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017			
County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Essex County	3,942	65,808	6.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%		

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Buels gore	27	377	7.2%
Hancock town	220	3,236	6.8%
Ira town	390	5,823	6.7%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%		

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Alburgh town	1,507	24,198
Isle La Motte town	347	5,779
Combined Area Total	1,854	29,977
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Barton town	2,058	30,127
Belvidere town	262	4,396
Brownington town	904	13,247
Burke town	1,037	19,669
Coventry town	649	13,261
Derby town	2,907	54,953
Eden town	1,461	17,862
Glover town	679	13,152
Holland town	339	8,555
Irasburg town	759	15,082
Jay town	666	7,588
Lowell town	649	10,504
Newark town	300	6,604
Newport city	3,000	42,476
Richford town	1,323	26,799
Sheffield town	400	7,486
Sutton town	524	10,826
Waterville town	472	9,188
Westfield town	286	7,202
Combined Area Total	18,675	318,977
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Bridgewater town	618	13,753
Killington town	1,097	12,535
Pittsfield town	271	7,163
Combined Area Total	1,986	33,451
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Dover town	981	15,363
Glastenbury town	0	144
Searsburg town	107	1,503
Combined Area Total	1,088	17,010
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.4%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
Manchester Labor Market Area	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Mount Tabor town	129	2,844
Sandgate town	208	3,843
Stratton town	203	2,819
Wells town	673	10,821
Combined Area Total	1,213	20,327
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 1, 2017.

9. Action and reason for approval or denial: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the Vermont State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the nine counties because the counties 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 as supporting documentation.

12. Implementation date and expiration date: The waiver is effective October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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

14. Date of National Office action:

15. Date of State agency's request: June 20, 2017

16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request: June 29, 2017

17. State agency contact:

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18. FNS Regional contact:

Ashley Krebs
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(617) 565-1612