



OCT 18 2013

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Ms. Patricia Duda
Director, Food and Nutrition Programs
Agency of Human Services, Economic Services Division
Vermont Department for Children and Families
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05674

RE: SNAP – Vermont ABAWD Waiver – FY 2014 – Approval

Dear Ms. Duda:

This letter transmits the approval (2130033) of the Vermont Department for Children and Families' request to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) residing in 13 towns within the State from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 for fiscal year (FY) 2014.

The State agency has requested to waive ABAWD time limits in the following nine cities and towns due to a 24-month average unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average: Barton, Brunswick, Dover, Isle La Motte, Killington, Newport, Norton, Pittsfield and East Haven. The State agency has also requested a waiver for the following 4 towns that demonstrate a recent three-month unemployment rate above 10 percent: Brighton, Concord, Eden and Sheffield.

Based on the data provided, FNS is approving the State agency's request for a one-year period, effective October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. Our detailed waiver response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Mickiewicz at Alison.Mickiewicz@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Kline".

Angela Kline
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

SND

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2130033
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24(f)
4. **State:** Vermont
5. **Region:** Northeast
6. **Regulatory requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than three months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 of the Food and Nutrition Act or a comparable program established by the State; or was exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f)(1) also provides that, upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) 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 alternative procedures:** The Vermont Department for Children and Families is requesting to waive SNAP participation time limits for ABAWDs residing in certain areas of the State.

The State agency requested a waiver for the towns and cities listed below based on an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012. During this time period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 10.5 percent.

Towns/Cities	Unemployment Rate (Oct 2010 – Sept 2012)
Barton	11.8%
Brunswick	12.4%
Dover	10.6%
Isle La Motte	12.0%
Killington	14.5%
Newport	13.4%
Norton	24.5%
Pittsfield	11.6%
East Haven	10.6%

The State agency requested a waiver for the towns listed below, which all demonstrate a recent 3-month average unemployment rate of over 10 percent.

Town	Unemployment Rate (Dec 2012 – Feb 2013)
Concord	10.2%
Eden	12.6%

Town	Unemployment Rate (Feb 2013 – Apr 2013)
Brighton	10.4%
Sheffield	10.6%

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** FNS is approving the State agency's request as 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:** The waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f).
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).
12. **Expiration date:** The waiver is effective beginning on October 1, 2013 and will expire on September 30, 2014.
13. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** Approval of this waiver is limited to the Vermont State agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
15. **Date of State agency's request:** September 6, 2013
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request to national office:** September 6, 2013
17. **Date of national office action:** OCT 18 2013
18. **Anticipated implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** October 1, 2013
19. **State agency contact:** Patricia Duda, Pat.Duda@state.vt.us
20. **FNS regional contact:** Alison Mickiewicz, Alison.Mickiewicz@fns.usda.gov