



AUG 29 2014

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

Ms. Patricia Duda
Director, Food and Nutrition Programs
Agency of Human Services
DCF/ESD
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05674

RE: SNAP – Vermont Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents
Time Limits - Extension - Approval

Dear Ms. Duda:

This is in response to the Vermont Department of Children and Families' request for an extension of its waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in certain areas of the State from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

The Vermont State agency has requested to waive ABAWD time limits in Eden, Killington and Norton town as well as the Northeastern Vermont Region, comprised of Newport City and the towns of Barton, Coventry and Sheffield. The supporting documentation provided by the State shows that these areas meet the requirements for waiver approval following regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. Eden town demonstrated a three month average unemployment rate above 10 percent from February through April 2014; and the remaining areas had an aggregate unemployment rate over 20 percent above the national average during the period of May 2012 through April 2014.

FNS is approving this request for an extension of Vermont's waiver of the ABAWD time limit. This approval is effective from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. A detailed waiver response is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison Mickiewicz at Alison.Mickiewicz@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Autumn McCain
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2130033
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Vermont
5. **Region:** Northeast
6. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal 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 three months during any three year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Regulations at 7CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary 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 proposed alternative procedures:** The Vermont State agency is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in Newport city, Barton town, Coventry town, Sheffield town, Killington town, Norton town and Eden town from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** FNS is approving the Vermont State agency's request to waive ABAWD time limits as the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii). The State agency has demonstrated that the combined area of Barton town, Newport city, Coventry town and Sheffield town and the individual areas of Killington town and Norton town had an unemployment rate at least 20% above the national average unemployment rate for a 24-month period.

Area	Unemployment Rate May 2012 – April 2014
Combined area of Newport city and the towns of Barton, Coventry and Sheffield	9.0%
Killington town	9.9%
Norton town	24.9%
US National Average	7.4%
20% Above the National Average Threshold	8.9%

Also, data submitted by the State agency shows that the town of Eden had an unemployment rate above 10 percent for the three month period of February through April 2014. The town had an unemployment rate of 10.6 percent during this period.

Area	Unemployment Rate February 2014 – April 2014
Eden town	10.6%

9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i),(ii) and (iii).
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). If Vermont wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with a waiver request along with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** This waiver extension is effective beginning October 1, 2014 and will expire on September 30, 2015.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Vermont Department of Children and Families.
14. **Date of national office action:** ~~AUG 20 2014~~
15. **Date of State agency's request:** July 18, 2014
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 21, 2014

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17. **Implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** October 1, 2014
18. **State agency contact:**
Patricia Duda
pat.duda@state.vt.us
19. **FNS regional contact:**
Alison Mickiewicz
Alison.Mickiewicz@fns.usda.gov