



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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AUG 16 2016

Patricia Duda
Director, Food and Nutrition Programs
Economic Services Division
Department for Children and Families
HC 1 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1020

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

Dear Ms. Duda:

This is in response to the Vermont State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 31 areas from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

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 in the 31 areas for the 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 Kevin Pasquaretta at Kevin.Pasquaretta@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver 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. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides 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) also provides 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 in 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 31 areas from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The State agency has supported its request for one county and three towns based upon the areas' individual unemployment rates reaching 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State has grouped 27 towns for consideration as four respective combined areas, as certain towns are contiguous and others share a labor market area. Similarly, the State has supported its request for these areas based upon each combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 24-month period. The State used the same 24-month period – April 2014 through March 2016 – for all requested areas. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 6.6 percent. As detailed in the following tables, the aggregate unemployment rates for the requested areas reached 6.6 percent during the selected time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data			
May 2014 – April 2016*			
County	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Essex County	4,434	66,428	6.7%

Town	Unemployment	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Alburgh town	1,672	24,875	6.7%
Hancock town	239	3,261	7.3%
Ira town	417	5,877	7.1%

Contiguous Town Group 1	Unemployment	Labor Force
Barton town	2,462	30,573
Belvidere town	301	4,396
Brownington town	849	13,222
Burke town	1,283	19,847
Coventry town	692	13,364
Derby town	3,060	55,010
Eden town	1,540	17,674
Enosburgh town	2,037	36,805
Glover town	805	13,327
Irasburg town	776	15,171
Jay town	591	7,354
Lowell town	713	10,583
Newport city	3,946	43,239
Richford town	1,563	27,009
Sheffield town	472	7,543
Sutton town	552	10,727
Waterville town	471	9,081
Westfield town	307	7,273
Combined Area Total	22,420	342,198
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.6%	

Contiguous Town Group 2	Unemployment	Labor Force
Bridgewater town	707	13,778
Killington town	1,227	12,597
Pittsfield town	387	7,298
Combined Area Total	2,321	33,673
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
Contiguous Town Group 3	Unemployment	Labor Force
Dover town	1,034	15,321
Glastenbury town	0	144
Searsburg town	124	1,492
Combined Area Total	1,158	16,957
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.8%	
Manchester Labor Market Area	Unemployment	Labor Force
Sandgate town	244	3,875
Stratton town	189	2,806
Wells town	742	10,767
Combined Area Total	1,175	17,448
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	

*Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 12, 2016

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 31 areas, because the areas 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 and supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.
- 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:** **AUG 16 2016**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** June 27, 2016
- 16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** July 1, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**
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- 18. FNS Regional contact:**
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