



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Date: September 5, 2018

Sean Brown

Deputy Commissioner

Department for Children and Families

Division of Economic Services

HC 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Vermont Request to Waive
Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval**

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is in response to the Vermont State agency's August 1, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents in 38 areas from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

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 the State to waive the time limit in the area for a 12-month period, as requested. 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:** 2130033
- 2. Request Type:** Extension and amendment
- 3. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 4. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 5. State:** Vermont
- 6. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
- 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 Vermont State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 38 towns from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the selected areas having average unemployment rates at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. The State has considered some towns individually and combined others that are contiguous. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.5 percent. As shown in the following tables, the requested areas' unemployment rates for the selected time period reached at least 5.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 - December 2017¹

Individual Towns	Unemployment Rate
Belvidere Town	5.5%
Brownington Town	7.0%
Buels gore	7.4%
Concord Town	6.0%
Dover Town	5.5%
Eden Town	6.6%
Isle La Motte Town	5.9%
Wells Town	5.6%

Combined Area 1	
Barton Town	
Burke Town	
Coventry Town	
Derby Town	
Irasburg Town	
Newport City	
Sutton Town	
Unemployment Rate	5.5%

¹ Data for areas with populations over 1,000 extracted from <https://data.bls.gov> on August 1, 2018. Data for areas with populations under 1,000 obtained from BLS in June 2018.

Combined Area 2	
Bloomfield Town	
Brunswick Town	
Canaan town	
East Haven Town	
Ferdinand Town	
Granby Town	
Guildhall Town	
Lemington Town	
Maidstone Town	
Newark	
Norton Town	
Victory Town	
Warren's Gore	
Unemployment Rate	6.0%

Combined Area 3	
Jay Town	
Lowell Town	
Westfield Town	
Unemployment Rate	6.2%

Combined Area 4	
Goshen	
Hancock	
Unemployment Rate	5.8%

Combined Area 5	
Bridgewater	
Killington	
Unemployment Rate	6.0%

Combined Area 6	
Glastenbury Town	
Searsburg Town	
Stratton Town	
Unemployment Rate	6.5%

- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. 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:** October 1, 2018
- 12. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2019
- 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:**

Name: Pat Duda
Phone Number: (802) 241-0603
Email: Pat.Duda@vermont.gov
- 15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**

Name: Ashley Krebs
Phone Number: (617) 565-1612
Email: Ashley.Krebs@fns.usda.gov