



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

May 3, 2023

Miranda Gray
Deputy Commissioner
Economic Services Division
Department for Children and Families
280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671

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

Dear Deputy Commissioner Gray:

This is in response to the Vermont Department for Children and Families' March 13, 2023, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Cathy McConnell

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

Enclosure

ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Request Type:** Initial
2. **Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
3. **Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Vermont
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Northeast
6. **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.
7. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in six towns and cities from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request for six towns in the Brattleboro VT-NH Labor Market Area, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of April 2020 through March 2022. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 8.0 percent. As detailed in the following table, the average unemployment rate for the towns was at least 8.0 percent during the 24-month period.

Table 1: Combined Area: (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2020 to March 2022)

Towns: Brattleboro VT-NH Labor Market Area	
1.	Dover town
2.	Grafton town
3.	Halifax town
4.	Searsburg town
5.	Wilmington town
6.	Windham town
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 8.0%	
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on March 24, 2023	

Enclosure 2

The State agency also supported its request for four towns in the Woodstock VT Labor Market Area, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of April 2020 to March 2022. During this time, the national average for unemployment was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 8.0 percent. The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 8.0 percent.

Table 2: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2020 to March 2022)

Towns: Woodstock Labor Market Area
1. Bridgewater town
2. Killington town
3. Pomfret town
4. Reading town
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 8.0%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov on March 24, 2023

The State agency also supported its request for two towns in the Manchester VT Labor Market Area, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of April 2020 to March 2022. During this time, the national average for unemployment was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 8.0 percent. The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 8.0 percent.

Table 3: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, April 2020 to March 2022)

Towns: Manchester Labor Market Area
1. Sandgate town
2. Stratton town
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 8.4%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and https://data.census.gov on March 24, 2023

The State agency also supported its request for one town Buels gore, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of December 2020 to November 2022. During this time, the national average for unemployment was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent.

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Table 4: Town Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 to November 2022)

Individual Town Unemployment Rate	
1. Buels gore:	5.8%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and https://data.census.gov on March 24, 2023	

The State agency also supported its request for three towns in the St. Johnsbury VT Labor Market Area, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of December 2020 to November 2022. During this time, the national average for unemployment was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent. The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 5.7 percent.

Table 5: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 to November 2022)

Towns: St. Johnsbury VT Labor Market Area	
1. Granby town	
2. Sutton town	
3. Victory town	
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.7%	
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and https://data.census.gov on March 24, 2023	

The State agency also supported its request for eight towns in the Derby VT Labor Market Area, based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of December 2020 to November 2022. During this time, the national average for unemployment was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent. The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 5.5 percent.

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Table 6: Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2020 to November 2022)

Towns: Derby VT Labor Market Area
1. Barton town
2. Brighton town
3. Brownington town
4. Ferdinand town
5. Irasburg town
6. Newport city
7. Troy town
8. Warren's gore
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 5.6%
Data extracted from http://www.bls.gov and https://data.census.gov on March 24, 2023

8. FNS Action and Justification: FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.

9. Authority: The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).

10. Implementation Date: July 1, 2023

11. Expiration Date: June 30, 2024

12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:

To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, 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.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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