



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 11, 2023

Jori Mundy
Director
FoodShare
Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

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

Dear Director Mundy:

This is in response to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' August 23, 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:

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

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:** Wisconsin
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Midwest
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 four counties, two cities, and 10 reservation areas from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the counties, cities, and reservation areas (listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3) each having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.2 percent. The average unemployment rate for the each of the individual requested areas was 5.2 percent or greater during the 24-month period.

Table 1: Counties (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties	Unemployment Rate
1. Adams County, WI	5.4%
2. Forest County, WI	5.5%
3. Iron County, WI	5.7%
4. Menominee County, WI	6.8%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 7, 2023

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Table 2: Cities (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Counties	Unemployment Rate
1. Milwaukee City, WI	5.2%
2. Racine City, WI	5.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on September 7, 2023.

Table 3: Reservation Areas (2021 American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data, February 2021 – January 2023)

Reservations	Unemployment Rate
1. Bad River Reservation	11.8%
2. Forest County Reservation	51.4%
3. Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation	16.8%
4. Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation	9.3%
5. Lac du Flambeau Reservation	7.0%
6. Menominee Reservation	8.2%
7. Red Cliff Reservation	14.1%
8. St. Croix Reservation	12.0%
9. Sokaogon Chippewa Community	20.0%
10. Stockbridge Munsee Community	6.2%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <https://data.census.gov> on September 7, 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: October 1, 2023

11. Expiration Date: September 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.

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13. State Agency Contact Information:

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14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

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