



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scruse, M.D., Secretary
Karmela Martinez, Division Director

February 6, 2020

Dwight Crudup
Regional Director
Southwest Region USDA/FNS
110 Commerce Street, Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242

Subject: Waiver # 2160027 Request for Extension of
*Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit -
Statewide*

Dear Mr. Crudup:

New Mexico Human Services Department (NMHSD) - Income Support Division (ISD) is submitting the attached Request for Extension of Waiver # 2160027, waiving regulation 7 CFR 273.24 requiring state agencies to implement the ABAWD three month time limit for the time period of March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

The 24-month average unemployment rate for New Mexico, from October 2017 through September 2019 was 5.0%. The national average unemployment rate for the same period was 3.9%.

Based upon the data, New Mexico's unemployment rate of 5.0% is greater than 20% above the national average of 3.9%. Based upon this 24 month average criterion, New Mexico is requesting a state-wide extension of the current ABAWD three month time limit waiver #2160027.

If additional information is needed, your staff may contact Gavino Archuleta, SNAP Program Manager, at 505-827-7244 or via e-mail at Gavino.Archuleta@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your assistance in processing this request.

Sincerely,

Karmela Martinez
Division Director
New Mexico Human Services Department
Income Support Division

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160027
2. **Type of request:** 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:** New Mexico
6. **Region:** SWRO

7. **Regulatory requirements:**

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 has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

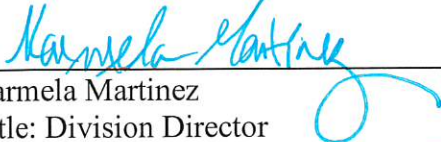
The State of New Mexico is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the State from SNAP time limits. This area is readily approvable under 7 CFR 273.24.

9. **Justification for request:**

The State of New Mexico seeks a statewide waiver based on the state's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of October 2017 through September 2019. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period

was 3.9 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.6 percent. The State's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data October 2017 through September 2019			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
New Mexico	1,139,352	22,702,870	5.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.6%		

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide New Mexico relief of agency administrative burden in enforcing the 3-month time limit as well as provide relief to households in New Mexico that lack sufficient jobs, as supported by unemployment data.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state and applies to all SNAP recipients who are determined to be ABAWDs.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-month waiver, from March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:**
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**
Vida Tapia-Sanchez, Deputy Director
Vida.Tapia-Sanchez@state.nm.us
15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Karmela Martinez
Title: Division Director
Email for transmission of response: Karmela.Martinez@state.nm.us
16. **Date of request:** February 6, 2020

State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Vida Tapia-Sanchez, Deputy
Director / Vida.Tapia-Sanchez@state.nm.us

17. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

NEW MEXICO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
OCT 2017 - SEP 2019
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month unemployed totals

from Step 2		from Step 4		Step 5		Step 6		Step 7	
OCT 2017 - SEP 2019		OCT 2017 - SEP 2019		OCT 2017 - SEP 2019		OCT 2017 - SEP 2019		OCT 2017 - SEP 2019	
Total labor force		Total number of unemployed		Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)		Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)		Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	
New Mexico		22,702,870		1,139,352		0.050185		5.01	
								5.0	
National Unemployment		3,895,317		150,052		0.038521		3.85	
								4.62	
Threshold - 20% Above the National Average								4.6	

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

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Data extracted on: November 18, 2019 (11:30:01 AM)

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Series Id: LASST35000000000003, LASST350000000000004, LASST350000000000005, LASST350000000000006

Seasonally Adjusted

Area: New Mexico

Area Type: Statewide

State/Region/Division: New Mexico

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Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
2017	Jan	936098	876161	59937	6.4
2017	Feb	936269	877139	59130	6.3
2017	Mar	936438	878233	58205	6.2
2017	Apr	936571	879361	57210	6.1
2017	May	936695	880491	56204	6.0
2017	Jun	936781	881540	55241	5.9
2017	Jul	936751	882389	54362	5.8
2017	Aug	936555	883003	53552	5.7
2017	Sep	936268	883518	52750	5.6
2017	Oct	935959	884090	51869	5.5
2017	Nov	935652	884775	50877	5.4
2017	Dec	935408	885621	49787	5.3
2018	Jan	935343	886689	48654	5.2
2018	Feb	935586	888028	47558	5.1
2018	Mar	936159	889605	46554	5.0
2018	Apr	936859	891158	45701	4.9

P : Preliminary.

Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
2018	May	937608	892480	45128	4.8
2018	Jun	938537	893627	44910	4.8
2018	Jul	939955	894838	45117	4.8
2018	Aug	941579	895927	45652	4.8
2018	Sep	943302	896968	46334	4.9
2018	Oct	944693	897767	46926	5.0
2018	Nov	944985	897884	47101	5.0
2018	Dec	944874	897815	47059	5.0
2019	Jan	948647	900520	48127	5.1
2019	Feb	951996	903252	48744	5.1
2019	Mar	953841	905467	48374	5.1
2019	Apr	955170	907251	47919	5.0
2019	May	956844	909220	47624	5.0
2019	Jun	958993	911667	47326	4.9
2019	Jul	961668	914101	47567	4.9
2019	Aug	963765	916246	47519	4.9
2019	Sep	965447(P)	918522(P)	46925(P)	4.9(P)

P : Preliminary.

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Data extracted on: November 18, 2019 (11:45:08 AM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNS11000000

Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Seas) Civilian Labor Force Level

Labor force status: Civilian labor force

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Download: [xlsx](#)

Series id	Year	Period	Value
LNS11000000	2017	M01	159693(1)
LNS11000000	2017	M02	159854
LNS11000000	2017	M03	160036
LNS11000000	2017	M04	160169
LNS11000000	2017	M05	159910
LNS11000000	2017	M06	160124
LNS11000000	2017	M07	160383
LNS11000000	2017	M08	160706
LNS11000000	2017	M09	161190
LNS11000000	2017	M10	160436
LNS11000000	2017	M11	160626
LNS11000000	2017	M12	160636
LNS11000000	2018	M01	161123(1)
LNS11000000	2018	M02	161900
LNS11000000	2018	M03	161646

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series id	Year	Period	Value
LNS13000000	2017	M12	6572
LNS13000000	2018	M01	6641
LNS13000000	2018	M02	6687
LNS13000000	2018	M03	6486
LNS13000000	2018	M04	6335
LNS13000000	2018	M05	6128
LNS13000000	2018	M06	6537
LNS13000000	2018	M07	6245
LNS13000000	2018	M08	6197
LNS13000000	2018	M09	5986
LNS13000000	2018	M10	6112
LNS13000000	2018	M11	6018
LNS13000000	2018	M12	6294
LNS13000000	2019	M01	6535
LNS13000000	2019	M02	6235
LNS13000000	2019	M03	6211
LNS13000000	2019	M04	5824
LNS13000000	2019	M05	5888
LNS13000000	2019	M06	5975
LNS13000000	2019	M07	6063
LNS13000000	2019	M08	6044
LNS13000000	2019	M09	5769
LNS13000000	2019	M10	5855

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