



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

October 17, 2024

Daniel Giacomi
Division Director
Food and Nutrition
Department of Social Services
401 W. Thames Street #102,
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

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

Dear Director Giacomi:

This is in response to the Connecticut Department of Social Services' October 4, 2024, 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 agency must continue tracking so that the State agency 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,

/s/

Catrina Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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:** Connecticut
- 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.

Requested Area(s) and Support: The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit in 68 towns and cities from December 1, 2024, to November 30, 2025.

The State agency supported its request based upon one town having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.3 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested areas was 4.3 percent during the 24-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Town (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Towns	Unemployment Rate
Putnam town	4.3%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on October 10, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area of 50 contiguous cities and towns having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.3 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.3 percent during the 24-month period (Table 2).

Table 2: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Cities and Towns
Ansonia city/town, CT
Avon town, CT
Beacon Falls town, CT
Berlin town, CT
Bethany town, CT
Bloomfield town, CT
Bridgeport city/town, CT
Bristol city/town, CT
Burlington town, CT
Canton town, CT
Cheshire town, CT
Derby city/town, CT
East Hartford town, CT
East Haven town, CT
Fairfield town, CT
Farmington town, CT
Hamden town, CT
Hartford city/town, CT
Harwinton town, CT
Manchester town, CT
Meriden city/town, CT
Middlebury town, CT
Milford (consolidated) city/town, CT
Naugatuck borough/town, CT
New Britain city/town, CT

New Hartford town, CT
New Haven city/town, CT
Newtown town, CT
North Branford town, CT
Orange town, CT
Oxford town, CT
Plainville town, CT
Plymouth town, CT
Prospect town, CT
Seymour town, CT
Shelton city/town, CT
Southington town, CT
Stratford town, CT
Thomaston town, CT
Torrington city/town, CT
Trumbull town, CT
Wallingford town, CT
Waterbury city/town, CT
Watertown town, CT
West Hartford town, CT
West Haven city/town, CT
Weston town, CT
Wolcott town, CT
Woodbridge town, CT
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.3%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on October 10, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area of 17 contiguous cities and towns having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2022 through January 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.6 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.3 percent. The average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.3 percent during the 24-month period (Table 3).

Table 3: Combined Area 2 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Cities and Towns
Bozrah town, CT
Franklin town, CT
Griswold town, CT
Lebanon town, CT

Lisbon town, CT
Montville town, CT
New London city/town, CT
Norwich city/town, CT
Plainfield town, CT
Preston town, CT
Salem town, CT
Scotland town, CT
Sprague town, CT
Sterling town, CT
Voluntown town, CT
Waterford town, CT
Windham town, CT
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.3%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on October 10, 2024.

- 7. 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.
- 8. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 9. Implementation Date:** December 1, 2024
- 10. Expiration Date:** November 30, 2025
- 11. 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.
- 12. State Agency Contact Information:**
Name: Todd Mallard
Phone: 860-424-4968
Email: Todd.Mallard@ct.gov
- 13. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
Name: Jennifer Glidden
Phone: 857-317-5106
Email: Jennifer.Glidden@usda.gov