

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

December 21, 2023

Lesa Dennis
Commissioner
Department for Community Based Services
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 East Main St
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621


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

Dear Commissioner Lesa Dennis:

This is in response to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' November 11, 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

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:** Kentucky
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Southeast
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 98 counties from December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of September 2021 through August 2023. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.5 percent. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.5 percent during the 24-month period.

Combined Area (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, September 2021 – August 2023)

Counties
Adair County, KY
Allen County, KY
Ballard County, KY
Barren County, KY
Bath County, KY
Bell County, KY
Bourbon County, KY
Boyd County, KY
Boyle County, KY

Bracken County, KY
Breathitt County, KY
Breckinridge County, KY
Butler County, KY
Caldwell County, KY
Calloway County, KY
Carlisle County, KY
Carter County, KY
Casey County, KY
Christian County, KY
Clark County, KY
Clay County, KY
Clinton County, KY
Crittenden County, KY
Cumberland County, KY
Daviess County, KY
Edmonson County, KY
Elliott County, KY
Estill County, KY
Fleming County, KY
Floyd County, KY
Fulton County, KY
Garrard County, KY
Grant County, KY
Graves County, KY
Grayson County, KY
Green County, KY
Greenup County, KY
Hancock County, KY
Hardin County, KY
Harlan County, KY
Harrison County, KY
Hart County, KY
Henderson County, KY
Hickman County, KY
Hopkins County, KY
Jackson County, KY
Johnson County, KY
Knott County, KY
Knox County, KY
Larue County, KY
Laurel County, KY
Lawrence County, KY
Lee County, KY
Leslie County, KY
Letcher County, KY
Lewis County, KY

Lincoln County, KY
Livingston County, KY
Logan County, KY
Lyon County, KY
Madison County, KY
Magoffin County, KY
Marshall County, KY
Martin County, KY
Mason County, KY
McCracken County, KY
McCreary County, KY
McLean County, KY
Meade County, KY
Menifee County, KY
Mercer County, KY
Metcalfe County, KY
Monroe County, KY
Montgomery County, KY
Morgan County, KY
Muhlenberg County, KY
Nicholas County, KY
Ohio County, KY
Owsley County, KY
Pendleton County, KY
Perry County, KY
Pike County, KY
Powell County, KY
Pulaski County, KY
Robertson County, KY
Rockcastle County, KY
Rowan County, KY
Russell County, KY
Simpson County, KY
Taylor County, KY
Todd County, KY
Trigg County, KY
Union County, KY
Warren County, KY
Wayne County, KY
Webster County, KY
Whitley County, KY
Wolfe County, KY
Combined Unemployment Rate: 4.5%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on December 12, 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: December 1, 2023

11. Expiration Date: November 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:

Name: Clarizza Singayao

Phone: 502-564-4679

Email: Clarizza.Singayao@ky.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: Sabriena Gibbs

Phone: 404-562-7272

Email: sabriena.gibbs@usda.gov