



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

September 13, 2024

Ian Yaffe
Director
Office for Family Independence
Department of Health and Human Services
109 Capitol Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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


Dear Director Yaffe:

This is in response to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' August 28, 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,

DocuSigned by:


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Catrina L. 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:** Maine
- 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 time limit in five Labor Market Areas (LMAs), composed of 87 towns, and in an additional 126 towns from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. All data in the Tables below was extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 30, 2024.

The State agency supported its request based upon the 11 individual towns each having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.64 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.4 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested areas was 4.4 percent or greater during the 24-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Individual Towns (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, May 2022 – April 2024)

Towns	Unemployment Rate
Aurora town, ME	5.3%
Frenchville town, ME	4.4%
Garland town, ME	4.5%
Grand Isle town, ME	4.4%
Hanover town, ME	4.8%
Matinicus Isle plantation, ME	4.7%
North Oxford unorganized, ME	100%
Ogunquit town, ME	4.4%
Osborn town, ME	4.9%
Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, ME	4.4%
Sweden town, ME	4.8%

Combined Areas 1 through 4 (Tables 2 through 5)

The State agency supported its request based upon the four different combined areas having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2022 through April 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 3.64 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.4 percent.

Combined Area 1 represents one LMA, consisting of 11 towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.6 percent during the 24-month period (Table 2).

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

Combined Area 1
<i>Pittsfield, ME LMA</i>
Corinna town, ME
Detroit town, ME
Harmony town, ME
Hartland town, ME
Kingsbury plantation, ME
Palmyra town, ME
Pittsfield town, ME
Plymouth town, ME
St. Albans town, ME
Troy town, ME
Wellington town, ME

Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.6%

Combined Area 2 represents four contiguous LMAs, consisting of 76 towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 3).

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

Combined Area 2
<i>Calais, ME LMA</i>
Alexander town, ME
Baileyville town, ME
Baring plantation, ME
Calais city, ME
Charlotte town, ME
Codyville plantation, ME
Cooper town, ME
Crawford town, ME
Eastport city, ME
Grand Lake Stream plantation, ME
Meddybemps town, ME
North Washington unorganized, ME
Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation, ME
Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Reservation, ME
Pembroke town, ME
Perry town, ME
Princeton town, ME
Robbinston town, ME
Talmadge town, ME
Topsfield town, ME
Vanceboro town, ME
Waite town, ME
 <i>Houlton, ME LMA</i>
Amity town, ME
Bancroft unorganized, ME
Cary plantation, ME
Crystal town, ME
Danforth town, ME
Dyer Brook town, ME
Hammond town, ME
Haynesville town, ME

Hersey town, ME
Hodgdon town, ME
Houlton town, ME
Island Falls town, ME
Kingman unorganized, ME
Linneus town, ME
Littleton town, ME
Ludlow town, ME
Macwahoc plantation, ME
Merrill town, ME
Monticello town, ME
Moro plantation, ME
Mount Chase town, ME
New Limerick town, ME
Oakfield town, ME
Orient town, ME
Patten town, ME
Reed plantation, ME
Sherman town, ME
Smyrna town, ME
Stacyville town, ME
Weston town, ME

Lincoln, ME LMA

Carroll plantation, ME
Chester town, ME
Drew plantation, ME
Lakeville town, ME
Lee town, ME
Lincoln town, ME
Lowell town, ME
Prentiss unorganized, ME
Springfield town, ME
Twombly Ridge unorganized, ME
Webster plantation, ME
Whitney unorganized, ME
Winn town, ME

Millinocket, ME LMA

East Millinocket town, ME
Glenwood plantation, ME
Mattawamkeag town, ME

Maxfield town, ME Medway town, ME Millinocket town, ME North Penobscot unorganized, ME Northeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME Seboeis plantation, ME South Aroostook unorganized, ME Woodville town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.5%

Combined Area 3 consists of six contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 4).

Table 4: Combined Area 3 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, May 2022 – April 2024)

Combined Area 3
Burlington town, ME East Central Penobscot unorganized, ME Edinburg town, ME Lagrange town, ME Passadumkeag town, ME Southeast Piscataquis unorganized, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.5%

Combined Area 4 consists of 15 contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.4 percent during the 24-month period (Table 5).

Table 5: Combined Area 4 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, May 2022 – April 2024)

Combined Area 4
Abbot town, ME Blanchard unorganized, ME Bowerbank town, ME Brownville town, ME Cambridge town, ME Dexter town, ME Lake View plantation, ME Milo town, ME Monson town, ME Northwest Piscataquis unorganized, ME

Parkman town, ME
Ripley town, ME
Sangerville town, ME
Sebec town, ME
Willimantic town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.4%

Combined Areas 5 through 11 (Tables 6 through 12)

The State agency supported its request based upon the seven different combined areas 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 3.62 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.3 percent.

Combined Area 5 consists of three contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.7 percent during the 24-month period (Table 6).

Table 6: Combined Area 5 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 5
Cutler town, ME
Jackson town, ME
Tremont town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.7%

Combined Area 6 consists of nine contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.3 percent during the 24-month period (Table 7).

Table 7: Combined Area 6 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 6
Central Hancock unorganized, ME
East Hancock unorganized, ME
Franklin town, ME
Gouldsboro town, ME
Great Pond town, ME
Northwest Hancock unorganized, ME
Steuben town, ME
Sullivan town, ME
Winter Harbor town, ME

Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.3%
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Combined Area 7 consists of 12 contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.4 percent during the 24-month period (Table 8).

Table 8: Combined Area 7 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 7
Avon town, ME
Coplin plantation, ME
Dallas plantation, ME
East Central Franklin unorganized, ME
Eustis town, ME
Kingfield town, ME
New Portland town, ME
North Franklin unorganized, ME
Phillips town, ME
Rangeley plantation, ME
South Franklin unorganized, ME
Weld town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.4%

Combined Area 8 consists of 10 contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.4 percent during the 24-month period (Table 9).

Table 9: Combined Area 8 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 8
Addison town, ME
Cherryfield town, ME
Columbia Falls town, ME
Columbia town, ME
Deblois town, ME
Harrington town, ME
Jonesboro town, ME
Machias town, ME
Milbridge town, ME
Whitneyville town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.4%

Combined Area 9 consists of 35 contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.4 percent during the 24-month period (Table 10).

Table 10: Combined Area 9 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 9
Allagash town, ME
Ashland town, ME
Blaine town, ME
Bridgewater town, ME
Caribou city, ME
Castle Hill town, ME
Caswell town, ME
Central Aroostook unorganized, ME
Connor unorganized, ME
Cyr plantation, ME
Eagle Lake town, ME
Easton town, ME
Fort Fairfield town, ME
Fort Kent town, ME
Garfield plantation, ME
Hamlin town, ME
Limestone town, ME
Mars Hill town, ME
Masardis town, ME
Nashville plantation, ME
New Canada town, ME
New Sweden town, ME
Perham town, ME
Portage Lake town, ME
Square Lake unorganized, ME
St. Francis town, ME
St. John plantation, ME
Stockholm town, ME
Van Buren town, ME
Wade town, ME
Wallagrass town, ME
Washburn town, ME
Westfield town, ME
Westmanland town, ME
Winterville plantation, ME

Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.4%
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Combined Area 10 consists of five contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 11).

Table 11 Combined Area 10 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 10
Carthage town, ME
Mexico town, ME
Milton unorganized, ME
Peru town, ME
Roxbury town, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.5%

Combined Area 11 consists of 20 contiguous towns. The aggregate average unemployment rate for the combined area was 4.5 percent during the 24-month period (Table 12).

Table 12: Combined Area 11 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)

Combined Area 11
Anson town, ME
Athens town, ME
Bingham town, ME
Brighton plantation, ME
Caratunk town, ME
Dennistown plantation, ME
Embden town, ME
Highland plantation, ME
Jackman town, ME
Mercer town, ME
Moose River town, ME
Moscow town, ME
Northeast Somerset unorganized, ME
Northwest Somerset unorganized, ME
Pleasant Ridge plantation, ME
Smithfield town, ME
Solon town, ME
Starks town, ME
The Forks plantation, ME

West Forks plantation, ME
Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.5%

- 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, 2024
- 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.
- 13. State Agency Contact Information:**
Name: Evan Denno
Phone: (207) 466-3201
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- 14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
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