



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 31, 2024

Kathy Bruen  
SNAP Program Manager  
Department of Human Services  
Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division  
444 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

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

Dear SNAP Program Manager Bruen:

This is in response to the Minnesota Department of Human Service's May 10, 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 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:  
*Catrina Kamau*  
284F789F20374D9...

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:** Minnesota
- 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 15 counties and 10 reservation areas from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The State agency supported its request based upon the combined area of 14 contiguous counties 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 1: Combined Area 1 (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, February 2022 – January 2024)**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Combined Area 1</b>                       |
| Aitkin County, MN                            |
| Carlton County, MN                           |
| Cass County, MN                              |
| Clearwater County, MN                        |
| Hubbard County, MN                           |
| Isanti County, MN                            |
| Itasca County, MN                            |
| Kanabec County, MN                           |
| Koochiching County, MN                       |
| Mahnomen County, MN                          |
| Mille Lacs County, MN                        |
| Morrison County, MN                          |
| Pine County, MN                              |
| Wadena County, MN                            |
| <b>Combined Area Unemployment Rate: 4.3%</b> |

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 24, 2024.

The State agency also supported its request based upon the one individual county 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 requested area was 4.3 percent during the 24-month period.

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

| <b>Counties</b> | <b>Unemployment Rate</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Lake County, MN | 4.3%                     |

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on May 24, 2024.

The State agency supported its request for the 10 reservation areas based up the areas each 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 reservation areas was 5.1 percent or greater during the 24-month period.

**Table 3: Reservation Areas (2022 American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data, February 2022 – January 2024)**

| <b>Reservation Areas</b>  | <b>Unemployment Rate</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Bois Forte Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN               | 6.8%                     |
| Fond du Lac Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN              | 8.2%                     |
| Grand Portage Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN            | 9.2%                     |
| Leech Lake Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN               | 7.1%                     |
| Lower Sioux Indian Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN         | 6.1%                     |
| Mille Lacs Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN               | 11.7%                    |
| Prairie Island Indian Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN      | 6.4%                     |
| Red Lake Reservation, MN  | 12.9%                    |
| Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN | 5.1%                     |
| White Earth Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN              | 5.6%                     |

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <https://data.census.gov> on May 24, 2024.

- 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:** July 1, 2024
- 11. Expiration Date:** June 30, 2025
- 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: Lori Bona

Email: [lori.bona@state.mn.us](mailto:lori.bona@state.mn.us)

Phone: 651-431-3950

**14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**

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