



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
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September 2, 2022

Betsy Suver
Chief
Bureau of Cash/Food Policy & Technical Support
Department of Job and Family Services
Post Office Box 183204
Columbus, Ohio 43218

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Ohio Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) Time Limit – Partial Approval

Dear Chief Suver:

This is in response to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' August 1, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).

FNS is approving Ohio to waive the time limit in eight of the 11 requested counties for a 12-month period. These areas meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.

The Ohio agency also requested to waive the time limit in Belmont, Lorain, and Meigs counties based on each county's average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of March 2020 through February 2022. Readily available data for these three counties show the average unemployment rate for the allowable 24-month period was not at least 20 percent above the national average for the same recent 24-month period. The State agency's request for these three counties does not meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is denying the State's request to waive the time limit as requested in these three counties.

The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

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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,

Catrina Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

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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:** Ohio
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 11 counties from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. FNS reminds the State agency that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) continues to temporarily and partially suspend the ABAWD time limit nationwide. While the suspension remains in place, only ABAWDs who are offered a slot in a work or workfare program, including a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program, are subject to the time limit.

The State agency supported its request based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showing that the average unemployment rate in the areas exceeds 120% of the national average for any 24-month period. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 8.1 percent. The average unemployment rates for the eight approvable areas were at least 8.1 percent during the same time period (areas listed below in Table 1).

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Table 1: Individual Counties (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2020 through February 2022)

Counties	Unemployment Rate
1. Cuyahoga	8.7%
2. Erie	8.4%
3. Jefferson	8.2%
4. Lucas	8.3%
5. Mahoning	8.2%
6. Monroe	8.8%
7. Noble	8.1%
8. Trumbull	8.3%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on August 19, 2022.

8. **FNS Action and Justification:** FNS approves the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in Cuyahoga, Erie, Jefferson, Lucas, Mahoning, Monroe, Noble, and Trumbull counties. 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, 2022
11. **Expiration Date:** September 30, 2023
12. **Information Required for Amendment or Extension:** 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:**

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

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