



Food and Nutrition Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August 24, 2026

Autumn Arnold
Bureau Director
Bureau of Eligibility and Enrollment Policy (BEEP)
Division of Medicaid Services
Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

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

Dear Bureau Director Arnold:

This is in response to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) July 16, 2026, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for time-limited participants, formerly known as able-bodied adults without dependents. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track time-limited participants 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.

FNA also reminds DHS of the clear expectation that SNAP participants who can work, do work. Time-limited participants are required to work or participate in a work program for at least 80 hours a month or to complete workfare. The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program is one of many ways that time-limited participants can meet this requirement and helps SNAP participants gain skills and find work that moves them toward self-sufficiency. Connecting participants to DHS' FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program supports our shared goal to lift millions of Americans out of dependency and into hopeful futures.

Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Sasha Gersten-Paal

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for

Ronald Ward

Acting Associate Administrator

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Food and Nutrition Administration

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:** Wisconsin
5. **Food and Nutrition Service (FNA) 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 time limit. 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 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 for non-contiguous States, has an unemployment rate 1.5 times the national average.
7. **Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the time limit in six reservation areas from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.

The State agency supported its request based upon the six reservation areas having a 12-month average unemployment rate over 10 percent for the 12-month period of June 2025 through May 2026. The unemployment rate for the requested reservation areas was at least 10.3 percent or greater during the three-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: Reservation Area (2024 American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, June 2025 – May 2026)

Reservation Area	Unemployment Rate
Forest County Potawatomi Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land	18.5%
Ho-Chunk Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	14.8%
Lac du Flambeau Reservation	10.3%
Red Cliff Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	15.5%
St. Croix Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	11.2%
Sokaogon Chippewa Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land	12.6%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> and <https://data.census.gov> on July 20, 2026.

- 8. FNA Action and Justification:** FNA is approving the State agency's request to waive the time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNA 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, 2026
- 11. Expiration Date:** September 30, 2027
- 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 FNA 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: Jayne Wanless
Phone: 608-267-7371
Email: JayneM.Wanless@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- 14. FNA Regional Office Contact Information:**
Name: Dane Higbee
Phone: 312-353-1458
Email: Dane.Higbee@usda.gov