



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
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Alexandria
VA 22302

JUL 02 2018

Kim McCoy Wade
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch Chief
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SNAP – California Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents Time
Limit – Approval

Dear Ms. McCoy Wade:

This is in response to the California State agency's request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ADAWDs) in 55 counties from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019.

The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is approving California to waive the time limit in the 55 contiguous counties for the requested 12-month period. The approval amends and extends waiver number 2150019. The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. If you have any questions please contact Jackie Bourne at Jacqueline.Bourne@fns.usda.gov.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding ABAWD time limit waivers. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150019
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) 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) also provides 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.
8. **Proposed alternative procedures:** The California State agency is requesting to waive the ABAWD time limit in 55 contiguous counties from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the 55 counties having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2015 through March 2017. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.95 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, the combined 55 county area had an aggregate unemployment rate of 5.9 percent during the selected 24-month time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 – March 2017*		
County	Unemployment	Labor Force
1. Alameda County	865,774	19,990,988
2. Alpine County	885	13,424
3. Amador County	21,048	348,978
4. Butte County	163,443	2,448,878
5. Calaveras County	29,030	499,149
6. Colusa County	40,532	262,866
7. Contra Costa County	604,095	13,281,262
8. Del Norte County	18,159	235,783

9. El Dorado County	111,121	2,140,324
10. Fresno County	1,024,068	10,667,132
11. Glenn County	26,129	313,048
12. Humboldt County	75,455	1,501,744
13. Imperial County	435,674	1,853,922
14. Inyo County	11,481	216,498
15. Kern County	954,791	9,337,323
16. Kings County	138,923	1,376,362
17. Lake County	48,162	702,635
18. Lassen County	17,560	253,968
19. Los Angeles County	6,761,384	120,706,910
20. Madera County	139,006	1,461,490
21. Marin County	110,928	3,371,918
22. Mariposa County	12,523	185,528
23. Mendocino County	50,949	955,605
24. Merced County	294,613	2,753,802
25. Modoc County	6,385	79,745
26. Mono County	11,083	200,609
27. Monterey County	406,891	5,287,958
28. Napa County	76,278	1,765,893
29. Nevada County	56,731	1,157,995
30. Orange County	1,571,561	38,322,456
31. Placer County	196,429	4,288,333
32. Plumas County	18,501	188,622
33. Riverside County	1,552,247	25,133,193
34. Sacramento County	913,941	16,632,532
35. San Benito County	49,618	711,707
36. San Bernardino County	1,308,299	22,358,576
37. San Diego County	1,790,363	37,552,977
38. San Joaquin County	628,433	7,629,681
39. San Luis Obispo County	145,602	3,358,745
40. Santa Barbara County	263,999	5,208,993
41. Santa Cruz County	242,905	3,457,362
42. Shasta County	126,769	1,789,901
43. Sierra County	2,523	32,334
44. Siskiyou County	37,168	429,500
45. Solano County	278,665	4,966,834
46. Sonoma County	252,814	6,229,094
47. Stanislaus County	510,550	5,844,513
48. Sutter County	107,180	1,083,565
49. Tehama County	43,798	604,643
50. Trinity County	8,787	122,348
51. Tulare County	546,984	4,926,346
52. Tuolumne County	33,239	521,983
53. Ventura County	540,022	10,269,902
54. Yolo County	150,772	2,536,974
55. Yuba County	58,638	676,250

Total	23,892,908	408,249,101
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	

*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on November 7, 2017.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the California State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit in the 55 county area because the jurisdictions meet the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
11. **Information required for an extension:** To receive an amendment or extension 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.
12. **Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019.
13. **Limitation if any on regional office approval of like requests:** The waiver is limited to the California State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:** JUL 0 2 2018
15. **Date of State agency's request:** September 18, 2017
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** September 18, 2017
17. **State agency contact:**
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18. **FNS Regional Contact:**
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