



United States Department of Agriculture

JAN 12 2017

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
Center

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria  
VA 22302

Todd Bland  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division  
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 Mr. Bland:

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 throughout the State.

California is currently approved to waive the time limit Statewide through December 31, 2017, under waiver number 2150019. The State agency has now requested to implement a new 12-month Statewide waiver, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018, based upon updated unemployment data.

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 throughout the State for the requested 12-month period. Effective September 1, 2017, this approval extends waiver number 2150019 and replaces the December 30, 2015 approval of the same number. The attached waiver response includes the supporting evidence used and the conditions of approval. Please contact Shahdy Monemzadeh at [Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Shahdy.Monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Enclosure

## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2150019
2. **Type of request:** 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, and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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) 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 in 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 has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. The State agency has supported its request based upon the State having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. During this 24-month period, the national average unemployment rate was 5.72 percent; 20 percent above this is 6.9 percent. As detailed in the following table, California's unemployment rate for the selected 24-month period was 6.9 percent.

<b>Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data</b>			
<b>January 2014 - December 2015*</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>
California	31,116,469	453,716,337	6.9%

\*Data extracted from Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment survey (<http://www.bls.gov>) on December 30, 2016.

- 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 throughout the State, because the areas 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 as supporting documentation.
- 12. Implementation date and expiration date:** The waiver is effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.
- 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:** **JAN 12 2017**
- 15. Date of State agency's request:** December 30, 2016
- 16. Date of Regional Office transmittal of request:** December 30, 2016
- 17. State agency contact:**  
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(916) 653-6162
- 18. FNS regional contact:**  
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