

DSS

Serving Children and Families

V. SUSAN ALFORD
STATE DIRECTOR

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

December 2, 2015

Ms. Peggy Fouts, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southeast Region
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Room 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Dear Ms. Fouts:

Please find enclosed, South Carolina's request for a three-month extension and modification of Waiver #2040052, from January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016. This waiver will allow the State to exempt individuals identified as Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) statewide from time-limited benefits until the Department of Social Services develops the necessary infrastructure to effectively apply ABAWD compliance and time tracking as required by federal regulation.

Attached is the May 31, 2015, trigger notice from the Department of Labor which shows that South Carolina qualifies for a waiver based on a seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) of 6.7%, which is 110% above the previous year's percentage. The period for which the State seeks the extension is January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016.

We appreciate your consideration of this waiver request. If you have any questions, please contact Darise Graham, at (803) 898-8193 or darise.graham@dss.sc.gov.

Sincerely,



Amber E. Gillum
Deputy State Director, Economic Services

AG/sa

Enclosures

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2040052

2. Type of request:

Modification and Extension

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

South Carolina

5. Region:

SERO

6. Regulatory requirements:

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 three months during any three-year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with, the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. Description of alternative procedures:

This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State qualifying for extended unemployment benefits within the past 12 months.

8. Justification for request:

South Carolina is requesting a modification and extension of its existing waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs based on the U.S. Department of Labor data that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits. This request is for

January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016. The State does not intend to extend this waiver request beyond March 31, 2016.

26 USC 3304 (Public Law 102-318) allows States the option of providing an additional alternative trigger for the extended benefits program, based on the State's seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate (TUR) for the most recent three months reaching at least: (1) 6.5 percent; and (2) 110 percent of such TUR for the corresponding three-month periods ending in either or both of the two preceding calendar years.

The Department of Labor's Trigger Notice No. 2015 – 20ⁱ shows the State's three-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) was: (1) 6.7 percent and (2) 110 percent of the three-month average for the corresponding period in the first preceding year, making the State eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average until the State can develop the agency infrastructure to apply ABAWD compliance and time tracking effectively as required by federal regulation.

This waiver will also provide the opportunity to transition the management of the SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program from SC Department of Social Services to the SC Department of Employment and Workforce. As an option for compliance of the ABAWD work requirement, it is in the State's best interest to have the SNAP E&T program firmly established within the new Agency.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of August 6, 2015, represent 100 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a three-month waiver from January 1, 2016, through March 31, 2016.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

South Carolina Department of Social Services
Darise Graham

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Amber Gillum, Deputy State Director, Economic Services
South Carolina Department of Social Services

12/2/15
Date

15. Date of request: December 2, 2015

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Name: Darise Graham
Phone: (803) 898-8193
Email: darise.graham@dss.sc.gov

17. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):

¹ Extended Benefits Trigger Notices can be found at <http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/archive.asp>. Trigger notice 2015-20 was issued the week of May 31, 2015.

TRIGGER NOTICE NO. 2015 - 20
STATE EXTENDED BENEFIT (EB) INDICATORS UNDER P.L. 112-240
Effective May 31, 2015

		INDICATORS					STATUS	
		13 Weeks Insured Unemployment Rate	Percent of Prior Years	3 months S.A. TUR	Year	Second Year	Available Weeks	Begin Date(B) End Date(E)
&	Alabama	1.27	79	5.8	81	81		E 04-21-2012
	Alaska	3.76	73	6.5	94	96		E 05-04-2013
&	Arizona	1.22	77	6.3	90	83		E 06-11-2011
&	Arkansas	1.95	84	5.6	88	77		E 09-26-2009
&	California	2.65	79	6.5	82	71		E 05-12-2012
&	Colorado	1.45	74	4.2	76	61		E 05-12-2012
	Connecticut	2.88	82	6.3	91	80		E 05-12-2012
*	& Delaware	1.86	81	4.6	77	65		E 04-21-2012
	& District of Col	1.55	73	7.7	99	89		E 06-09-2012
*	& Florida	0.81	56	5.7	88	77		E 05-12-2012
*	& Georgia	0.95	65	6.3	86	75		E 04-21-2012
	& Hawaii	1.36	72	4.1	89	84		E 01-24-1981
	& Idaho	1.63	68	3.9	80	62		E 08-11-2012
	& Illinois	2.60	78	6.0	78	66		E 05-12-2012
	& Indiana	1.05	63	5.7	95	70		E 04-21-2012
*	& Iowa	1.63	81	4.0	91	83		E 06-04-1983
	Kansas	1.27	72	4.2	91	78		E 04-07-2012
*	& Kentucky	1.46	62	5.1	71	63		E 04-07-2012
	& Louisiana	1.16	98	6.6	120	96		E 02-25-2006
	& Maine	2.12	75	4.8	83	70		E 02-18-2012
	& Maryland	1.92	78	5.4	92	81		E 04-21-2012
	& Massachusetts	2.66	84	4.8	81	72		E 04-07-2012
*	& Michigan	2.02	73	5.7	75	65		E 02-18-2012
	Minnesota	1.92	78	3.7	86	74		E 01-14-2012
	& Mississippi	1.17	61	6.8	87	77		E 07-16-1983
	& Missouri	1.41	75	5.6	89	85		E 04-07-2012
	& Montana	2.33	74	4.1	85	76		E 06-19-2010
	& Nebraska	0.82	70	2.6	76	68		E 01-24-1981
	& Nevada	2.29	79	7.1	87	72		E 07-07-2012
*	New Hampshire	1.10	69	3.9	87	74		E 08-14-2010
	New Jersey	3.10	86	6.5	96	76		E 07-07-2012
	& New Mexico	1.83	84	6.1	91	91		E 01-28-2012
	& New York	2.20	80	5.7	86	73		E 12-09-2012
	North Carolina	0.91	45	5.4	84	64		E 05-12-2012
*	& North Dakota	1.25	108	3.0	111	100		E 06-11-1983
	& Ohio	1.53	80	5.1	85	68		E 04-07-2012
	& Oklahoma	1.32	106	3.9	81	74		E 01-24-1981
	Oregon	2.06	73	5.5	77	68		E 04-07-2012
	& Pennsylvania	2.74	80	5.2	85	70		E 05-12-2012
	& Puerto Rico	2.83	74	11.9	84	86		E 12-18-2010
	Rhode Island	2.74	83	6.2	76	65		E 07-07-2012
	& South Carolina	0.87	60	6.7	110	83		E 04-07-2012
*	& South Dakota	0.60	76	3.5	100	92		E 01-24-1981
	& Tennessee	1.05	72	6.3	97	80		E 04-07-2012
	& Texas	1.44	98	4.3	81	68		E 05-12-2012
*	& Utah	1.03	70	3.4	89	72		E 06-25-1983
	Vermont	2.08	83	3.8	95	84		E 07-10-2010
	& Virgin Islands	2.20	87	7.0	95	80		E 08-06-1983
	& Virginia	0.90	77	4.8	91	86		E 05-14-2011
*	Washington	1.90	76	5.9	94	83		E 04-21-2012
	& West Virginia	2.52	97	6.6	97	97		E 06-09-2012
	& Wisconsin	2.19	67	4.6	82	68		E 04-07-2012
*	& Wyoming	2.15	104	4.1	95	84		E 06-13-1987

Total Number 'ON' 0

0

0

* - State does not have 6% IUR option in law
 & - State does not have TUR option in law.

@ - State "ON" by 3-month average TUR.
- State "ON" by 13-week IUR.
IUR reflects 13-week period ending May 16, 2015.
TUR reflects avg. seasonally adjusted TUR for 3-month period ending April 2015.