



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Food and
Nutrition
Service**

**3101 Park
Center Drive**

**Alexandria, VA
22302-1500**

DEC 17 2015

Ms. Amber Gillum
Deputy State Director, Economic Services
South Carolina Department of Social Services
Post Office Box 1520
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

RE: SNAP –South Carolina Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents Time
Limit – Extension – Approval

Dear Ms. Gillum:

This is in response to the South Carolina Department of Social Services' request to extend waiver number 2150030, which would allow South Carolina to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) throughout the State from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 from January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016.

The South Carolina State agency has supported its request based upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. The State has provided a copy of Department of Labor Trigger notice 2015-20, effective May 31, 2015, showing that South Carolina qualified for extended unemployment benefits. Following longstanding Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) policy, States can qualify for a 12-month statewide waiver for up to 12 months after the trigger date.

Therefore, FNS is approving South Carolina to waive the time limit statewide from January 1, 2016, through March 31, 2016, as requested by the State. Please note that South Carolina is eligible to continue the waiver for the duration of the calendar year. If the State chooses to continue the waiver beyond March 31, 2016, for all or part of the State, it need only notify FNS. If you have any questions, please contact Yolaunda Daniel at Yolaunda.Daniel@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha Gersten-Paal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150030
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** South Carolina
5. **Region:** Southeast
6. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal 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 three months during any three year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Regulations at 7 CFR 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 at least 20 hours per week; any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week; or participating in and complying with a workfare program.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii), a State can qualify for a 12-month statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit if the Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Service determines that the State qualifies for extended unemployment benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can approve a waiver if the State qualifies for extended benefits, regardless of whether the State has elected the option to offer the benefit itself. States that meet the extended benefit criteria can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver up to 12 months after the trigger date.

7. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The South Carolina Department of Social Services has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit statewide from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit at 7 CFR 273.24 from January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016.

The South Carolina State agency has supported its request based upon the State's eligibility for extended unemployment benefits, a criterion for waiver approval provided by SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. The State has provided a copy of Department of Labor Trigger notice 2015-20, effective May 31, 2015, showing that South Carolina qualified for extended unemployment benefits.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving the South Carolina State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit

statewide because the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii) and relevant guidance.

9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(1)(ii).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal waiver request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). If the State requests extension based upon unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with all supporting documentation, including data spreadsheets.
12. **Implementation date and Expiration date:** As requested by the State, the waiver is effective January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the South Carolina State agency.
14. **Date of national office action:**
15. **Date of State agency's request:** December 2, 2015
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** December 2, 2015
17. **State agency contact:**
Darise Graham
darise.graham@dss.sc.gov
(803) 898-8193
18. **FNS regional contact:**
Yolaunda Daniel
yolaunda.daniel@fns.usda.gov
(404) 562-1815