



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Human Services Department
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
David R. Scrase, M.D., Cabinet Secretary
Angela Medrano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Kari Armijo, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

March 25, 2020

Dwight Crudup
Regional Director
Southwest Region USDA/FNS
110 Commerce Street, Room 5-C-30
Dallas, Texas 75242

Subject: Waiver # 2160027 Request for Extension of *Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit - Statewide*

Dear Mr. Crudup:

New Mexico Human Services Department (NMHSD) - Income Support Division (ISD) is submitting the attached Request for Extension of Waiver # 2160027, waiving regulation 7 CFR 273.24 requiring state agencies to implement the ABAWD three-month time limit.

The 24-month average unemployment rate for New Mexico, from October 2017 through September 2019 was 5.0%. The national average unemployment rate for the same period was 3.9%.

Based upon the data, New Mexico's unemployment rate of 5.0% is greater than 20% above the national average of 3.9%. Based upon this 24-month average criterion, New Mexico is requesting a state-wide extension of the current ABAWD three month time limit waiver #2160027.

If additional information is needed, your staff may contact Gavino Archuleta, SNAP Program Manager, at 505-827-7244 or via e-mail at Gavino.Archuleta@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your assistance in processing this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karmela Martinez".

Karmela Martinez
Division Director
New Mexico Human Services Department
Income Support Division

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160027
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:** New Mexico
6. **Region:** SWRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

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. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of New Mexico is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the State from SNAP time limits. This area is readily approvable under 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:**

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of New Mexico seeks a statewide waiver based on the state's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of October 2017 through September 2019. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.9 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.6 percent. The State's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data October 2017 through September 2019			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
New Mexico	1,139,352	22,702,870	5.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.6%		

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): This waiver affects the entire state.
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed: The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

State: New Mexico
Contact Person: Vida Tapia-Sanchez

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Name: Karmela Martinez
Title: Division Director
Email for transmission of response: Karmela.Martinez@state.nm.us

16. Date of request: 3/24/2020
17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):
Name: Vida Tapia-Sanchez
Title: Deputy Director
Email: vida.tapia-sanchez@state.nm.us
18. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):