

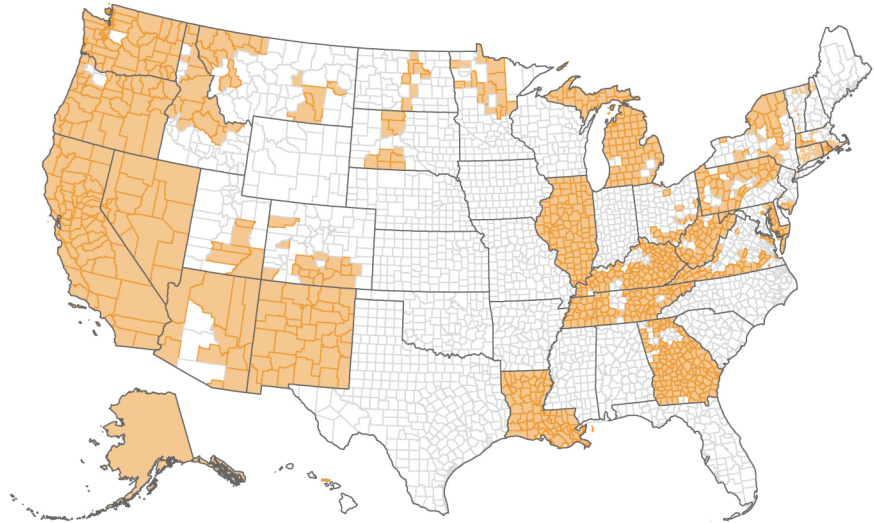
SNAP Time Limits

Waivers from the Time Limit Are Back to Historic Norms

The 1996 welfare law limits most working-age adults not raising minor children to three months of SNAP out of every 36 months unless they are working at least 20 hours a week or otherwise exempt. It also allows states to seek waivers from the time limit for higher-unemployment areas. Criteria for the waivers haven't changed since they were set in 1999. Every state but Delaware has sought a waiver at some point, which allows them to protect poor unemployed people in areas with insufficient jobs.

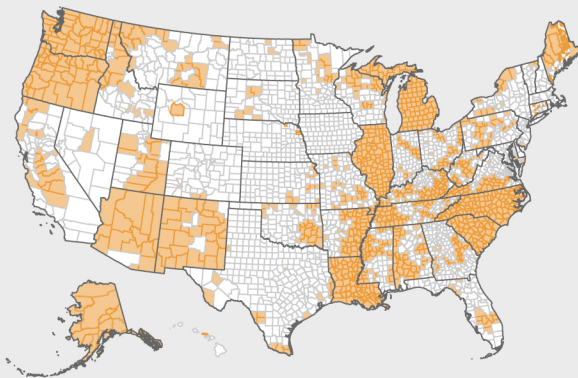
Areas waived in FY 2017

States had waivers for counties, cities, or reservations representing 36 percent of the U.S. population.



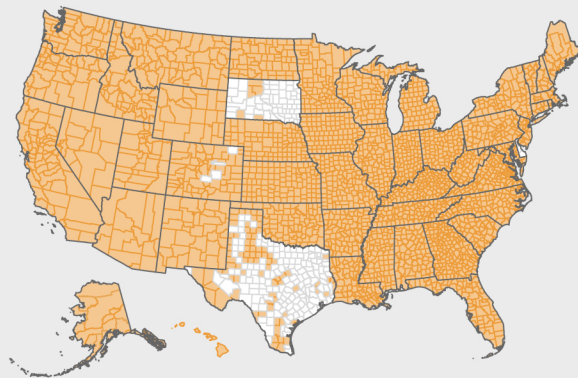
Waivers in FY 2005

Before the recession, states had waivers for areas representing 35 percent of the U.S. population. This was the norm during the Bush Administration.



Time Limit Suspended in FY 2009

The 2009 Recovery Act suspended the time limit nationwide for part of 2009 and fiscal year 2010 due to rapidly rising unemployment during the recession, but allowed states to retain it if they offered work opportunities for people subject to the limit. Even without the law, almost every state would have qualified for statewide waivers based on high unemployment.



Note: These maps show county waiver status for the majority of the year to the extent records are available. Many state waivers have not been on the fiscal year cycle, and states have often had multiple waivers in a given fiscal year.

Source: CBPP analysis of state waivers