

In addition, the State requests waivers for the following areas based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average for March 2005 – February 2007.

Area	Unemployment Rate MARCH 2005 – FEBRUARY 2007
Carbon County	5.9
Columbia County	5.7
Pike County	5.8
Schuylkill County	5.7
Allentown City	6.4
Chester City	7.6
Harrisburg City	5.8
McKeesport City	6.5
Reading City	7.2
York City	6.8

9. **Justification for request:**

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

10. **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.

11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:**

The caseload for these areas, as of October 1, 2007, represents 64 percent of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures.

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

The State is requesting a waiver effective through January 31, 2009.

13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:**

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

14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Linda T. Blanchette, Deputy Secretary for Income Maintenance

15. **Date of request:**

JAN 18 2008