



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

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Jack Dalrymple, Governor
Maggie D. Anderson, Interim Executive Director

July 26, 2013

Cheryl Kennedy, Regional Division Director
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Blvd 903
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

Included is North Dakota's ABAWD waiver request, Serial Number 970125, along with supporting documentation. Rolette and Pierce Counties qualify based on having an aggregate average unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2011-April 2013. During this time period, the national average for unemployment was 8.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 9.9 percent. This area, composed of two contiguous counties, had an aggregate average of 10 percent.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Michele A. Gee
Michele A. Gee, Assistant Director
North Dakota Department of Human Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
970125
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:**
Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
5. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i)
6. **State:**
North Dakota
7. **Region:**
MPRO
8. **Regulatory requirements:**
Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), P.L. 104-193, provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36 month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirement of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

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 above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS 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.
9. **Proposed procedures:**
The State of North Dakota requests to waive individuals residing in a combined area within the state. The combined area is a combination of two contiguous counties.

The State seeks a waiver for one contiguous area eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2011 – April 2013.

Combined Sub-region:

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, May 2011-April 2013
Pierce County	4.9
Rolette County	11.8
Total for Combined Sub-region	10.0
20% Above National Average Threshold	9.9

Rolette and Pierce Counties qualify based on having an aggregate average unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2011-April 2013. During this time period, the national average for unemployment was 8.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 9.9 percent. This area, composed of two contiguous counties, had an aggregate average of 10 percent.

10. 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 for a 24-month period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website, which are attached with the application.

11. 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.

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

The caseload for these two counties is 2,843 as of June 2013 and represents 11% of the caseload for the state. In FFY 2012, Rolette County had 3 cases cited in error (\$752) and Pierce County had no errors. The statewide error rate for FFY 2012 was 2.94%. The ABAWD provisions do not apply to Rolette and Pierce Counties in FFY 2013.

Quality Control data through April 18, 2013 shows Rolette and Pierce Counties have had no errors cited. Our current error rate is 1.49%

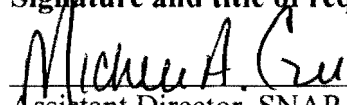
13. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

14. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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


Assistant Director, SNAP

16. **Date of request:** July 26, 2013

