



Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Terry R. Smith
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

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OCT 17 2013

September 27, 2013

Bonnie Brathwaite
Food Stamp Program
USDA/FNS, Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

Enclosed, please find New Hampshire's request for a waiver to exempt certain identified Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) from the ABAWD employment and training requirements for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014. Documentation supporting the State's request is also enclosed. New Hampshire has additional lengthier and more detailed documentation and would be happy to forward it at your request.

The identified ABAWDS for whom the exemption is sought live in the towns of Dummer, Errol, Stark, Stewartstown, Stratford, Wentworth Location, Clarksville and Randolph, New Hampshire. In total, there are 122 individuals in these towns who meet the unemployment waiver requirements.

New Hampshire's waiver request is based on 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to waive employment and training requirements for ABAWDS if the area in which the individuals live has either an unemployment rate above 10.0% or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.

The ABAWD households in the towns named above all reside in the catchment area served by the Berlin District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie A. Green, the Food Stamp Program Manager, at 603-271-9283.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Smith, Director
Division of Family Assistance

**AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
JUL 2011 - JUN 2013
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2 24 mo" for 24-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4 24 mo" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5		Step 6		Step 7
	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013	JUL 2011 - JUN 2013
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)	
Dummer town	3,758	371	0.09872	0.0987	9.87	9.9	
Errol town	3,628	382	0.10529	0.1052	10.52	10.5	
Stark town	5,799	726	0.12519	0.1251	12.51	12.5	
Wentworth Location	359	51	0.14206	0.1420	14.20	14.2	
U.S. National Average	#####	302,906,000	0.08152	0.0815	8.15	8.2	
20% Threshold						9.8	

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

**AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
APR 2010 - MAR 2012
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2 24 mo" for 24-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4 24 mo" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2		from Step 4		Step 5		Step 6		Step 7	
	APR 2010 - MAR 2012		APR 2010 - MAR 2012		APR 2010 - MAR 2012		APR 2010 - MAR 2012		APR 2010 - MAR 2012	
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)				
Hart's Location town	546	73	0.13370	0.1336	13.36	13.4				
Stratford Town	8,485	965	0.11373	0.1137	11.37	11.4				
U.S. National Average	#####	335,533,000	0.09086	0.0908	9.08	9.1				
20% Threshold						10.9				

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

APR 13 - JUN 13 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2 3 mo" for 3-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4 3 mo" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2		from Step 4		Step 5		Step 6		Step 7	
	APR 13 - JUN 13		APR 13 - JUN 13		APR 13 - JUN 13		APR 13 - JUN 13		APR 13 - JUN 13	
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)				
Clarksville town	377	40	0.10610	0.1061	10.61	10.6				
Stewartstown town	1,169	146	0.12489	0.1248	12.48	12.5				
10% Threshold						10.0				

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

FEB 13 - APR 13

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2 3 mo" for 3-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4 3 mo" for 3-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5		Step 6		Step 7
	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13	FEB 13 - APR 13
			Average	Average	Average	Average	Average
			Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate
			(unrounded)	(4 decimal places)	(multiply by 100)	(one decimal place)	
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed					
Randolph town	449	48	0.10690	0.1069	10.69	10.7	
10% Threshold							10.0

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver serial number:
2030062
2. Type of request:
Modification
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:
7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)
5. State:
New Hampshire
6. Region:
NERO
7. Regulatory requirements:
Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received SNAP 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; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or 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.

7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii) permits states to use "data from the BLS or the BLS cooperating agency that an area has a 24-month average unemployment rate that exceeds the national average by 20 percent for any 24-month period no earlier than the same periods the ETA used to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year." Also, 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i) explains that "to support a claim of unemployment over 10 percent, a State agency may submit evidence that an area has a recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; a recent three month average

unemployment rate over 10 percent; or an historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10 percent”.

8. Proposed procedures:

The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt from these requirements individuals residing in nine towns. Four areas are eligible based on having average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during July 2011- June 2013. The national average plus 20 percent during this period was 9.8 percent.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, JUL 2011 – JUN 2013
Dummer town	9.9
Errol town	10.5
Stark town	12.5
Wentworth Location	14.2
National Average Plus 20 Percent	9.8

The State would like to request to exempt individuals in two towns based on an average unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average during April 2010-March 2012. The national average plus 20 percent during this period was 10.9 percent.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, APR 2010-MAR 2012
Hart's Location town	13.4
Stratford Town	11.4
National Average Plus 20 Percent	10.9

The State would also like to request to exempt individuals in two towns with an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for a recent 3-month period. These towns had an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for the period of April-June 2013.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, APR 2013 – JUN 2013
Clarksville town	10.6
Stewartstown town	12.5
Threshold	10.0

Finally, the State would like to request to exempt individuals in one town based on an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for the 3-month period of February through April 2013.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, FEB 2013- APR 2013
Randolph town	10.7
Threshold	10.0

9. Justification for request:
As stated in number 8 above, the areas requested have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period, or have an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for a recent 3-month period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website, and are included with the request.
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, or exceeds 10 percent in a recent time period.
11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:
The caseload for these areas, as of August 30, 2013, represents .002% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a waiver to cover the period of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.
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:

Terry R. Smith, Director, Division of Family Assistance

15. Date of request:
September 27, 2013

