

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number (if request is extension):** 970057
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24(f)
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Texas
6. **Region:** SWRO
7. **Regulation Requirements:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no able-bodied adult shall be eligible to participate in SNAP as a member of any household if, during a three-year period, the individual received SNAP benefits for three or more months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work an average of 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

It also provides that, upon request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision 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. **Proposed alternative procedures:** Texas proposes to exempt from this requirement individuals who reside in counties that have an unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent. Employment data obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#data> (Attachment A) indicates that the 12 counties listed in Attachment A had unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent from February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013. Each year the State plans to revise the list of waiver counties with an annual effective date of October 1. The State may request approval of a waiver for additional counties if circumstances warrant during the year.
9. **Justification for request:** This waiver is requested under 7 CFR 273.24(f). Approval of this waiver would allow individuals who reside in areas with unemployment rates over 10 percent the opportunity to participate in SNAP without being required to meet program work requirements that may not be attainable.
10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Approval of this waiver would mitigate the adverse effects experienced by households in areas with high unemployment rates by allowing them to continue to receive basic nutritional assistance

through SNAP. These households may otherwise be faced with losing basic food support due to circumstances beyond their control, since complying with work requirements in these areas may not be attainable.

11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion:** In January 2013, a total of 4,134,829 individuals (1,715,565 households) received SNAP statewide. The 5,954 SNAP recipients in the twelve counties who would be exempted by this waiver comprise 0.14 percent of the State's total SNAP recipients. The 5,633 SNAP households that would be exempted comprise .33 percent of the State's total SNAP households. Attachment B provides caseload data for able-bodied adults for the 12 impacted counties.

There are no applicable quality control error rates to report for this waiver request.

12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The waiver is requested for a one-year period beginning October 1, 2013.

13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:**
No special procedures will be necessitated by this waiver.

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



Stephanie Muth
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Office of Social Services

15. **Date of request:** June 19, 2013

Attachment A

Cameron			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	163426	18113
2012	Mar	163825	17417
2012	Apr	162558	16304
2012	May	162874	16822
2012	Jun	164014	18284
2012	Jul	164031	18163
2012	Aug	162239	17380
2012	Sep	161336	16241
2012	Oct	162612	15904
2012	Nov	162519	15581
2012	Dec	162674	16085
2013	Jan	164690	18073
Total		1956798	204367

$$204367/1956798 = .1044 \times 100 = 10.44$$

10.4% unemployment

Hidalgo			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	318161	36331
2012	Mar	318150	34667
2012	Apr	316205	32568
2012	May	316796	34192
2012	Jun	319486	38230
2012	Jul	312497	37740
2012	Aug	310979	35809
2012	Sep	312241	32873
2012	Oct	315199	31797
2012	Nov	315586	31261
2012	Dec	317468	33222
2013	Jan	319920	37076
Total		3792688	415766

$$415766/3792688 = .1096 \times 100 = 10.96$$

11.0% unemployment

Jefferson			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	121657	12846
2012	Mar	121428	12599
2012	Apr	121731	12430
2012	May	121763	13155
2012	Jun	122736	14575
2012	Jul	120707	14313
2012	Aug	119418	13396
2012	Sep	119610	12322
2012	Oct	120086	12160
2012	Nov	119006	11527
2012	Dec	119510	12268
2013	Jan	120351	13622
Total		1448003	155213

$$155213/1448003 = .1071 \times 100 = 10.71$$

10.7% unemployment

Maverick			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	24076	3523
2012	Mar	23964	3361
2012	Apr	23703	3096
2012	May	23632	2967
2012	Jun	23691	3042
2012	Jul	23038	2914
2012	Aug	22592	2669
2012	Sep	22975	2461
2012	Oct	23165	2551
2012	Nov	23114	2505
2012	Dec	23427	2738
2013	Jan	24089	3566
Total		281466	35393

$$35393/281466 = .1257 \times 100 = 12.57$$

12.6% unemployment

Newton			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	5785	697
2012	Mar	5759	678
2012	Apr	5780	647
2012	May	5767	658
2012	Jun	5865	738
2012	Jul	5687	700
2012	Aug	5607	683
2012	Sep	5545	634
2012	Oct	5605	615
2012	Nov	5495	591
2012	Dec	5543	657
2013	Jan	5566	717
Total		68004	8015

$$8015/68004 = .1178 \times 100 = 11.78$$

11.8% unemployment

Presidio			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	4082	491
2012	Mar	4093	442
2012	Apr	4137	439
2012	May	4062	472
2012	Jun	4279	606
2012	Jul	4299	613
2012	Aug	4215	600
2012	Sep	4234	562
2012	Oct	4078	491
2012	Nov	4112	443
2012	Dec	4149	490
2013	Jan	4227	542
Total		49967	6191

$$6191/49967 = .1239 \times 100 = 12.39$$

12.4% unemployment

Red River			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	5680	626
2012	Mar	5666	603
2012	Apr	5697	558
2012	May	5697	566
2012	Jun	5732	630
2012	Jul	5700	640
2012	Aug	5502	571
2012	Sep	5475	535
2012	Oct	5468	530
2012	Nov	5368	503
2012	Dec	5333	518
2013	Jan	5338	574
Total		66656	6854

$$6854/66656 = .1028 \times 100 = 10.28$$

10.3% unemployment

Sabine			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	3324	525
2012	Mar	3299	507
2012	Apr	3310	483
2012	May	3330	502
2012	Jun	3399	546
2012	Jul	3381	554
2012	Aug	3256	494
2012	Sep	3207	471
2012	Oct	3145	448
2012	Nov	3112	446
2012	Dec	3121	485
2013	Jan	3139	521
Total		39023	5982

$$5982/39023 = .1532 \times 100 = 15.32$$

15.3% unemployment

San Augustine			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	3567	395
2012	Mar	3614	395
2012	Apr	3552	364
2012	May	3575	369
2012	Jun	3585	390
2012	Jul	3593	390
2012	Aug	3490	370
2012	Sep	3448	351
2012	Oct	3435	338
2012	Nov	3410	330
2012	Dec	3391	345
2013	Jan	3411	383
Total		42071	4420

$$4420/42071 = .1050 \times 100 = 10.50$$

10.5% unemployment

Starr			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	26130	4314
2012	Mar	25886	4092
2012	Apr	25261	3709
2012	May	25022	3693
2012	Jun	25291	4056
2012	Jul	25064	3955
2012	Aug	24607	3572
2012	Sep	24701	3242
2012	Oct	25057	3328
2012	Nov	25035	3401
2012	Dec	25458	3850
2013	Jan	26090	4410
Total		303602	45622

$$45622/303602 = .1502 \times 100 = 15.02$$

15.0% unemployment

Willacy			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	9032	1393
2012	Mar	8992	1315
2012	Apr	8946	1208
2012	May	8888	1245
2012	Jun	8965	1306
2012	Jul	8742	1275
2012	Aug	8565	1199
2012	Sep	8549	1146
2012	Oct	8650	1109
2012	Nov	8550	1081
2012	Dec	8704	1156
2013	Jan	8853	1332
Total		105436	14765

$$14765/105436 = .1400 \times 100 = 14.00$$

14.0% unemployment

Zavala			
Year	Period	labor force	unemployment
2012	Feb	4382	653
2012	Mar	4314	627
2012	Apr	4258	544
2012	May	4271	568
2012	Jun	4269	628
2012	Jul	4126	636
2012	Aug	4032	616
2012	Sep	4063	570
2012	Oct	4189	542
2012	Nov	4094	512
2012	Dec	4164	541
2013	Jan	4273	626
Total		50435	7063

$$7063/50435 = .1400 \times 100 = 14.00$$

14.0% unemployment

Attachment B
SNAP Hardship Counties in Texas
Total Number of SNAP Childless 18-49 Yr Olds
January 2013

County	ABAWD Recipients	ABAWD Households
Cameron	1,372	1,293
Hidalgo	2,325	2,196
Jefferson	1,363	1,319
Maverick	106	101
Newton	139	123
Presidio	9	9
Red River	31	29
Sabine	83	73
San Augustine	111	98
Starr	174	164
Willacy	153	145
Zavala	88	83
Total	5,954	5,633

Total Counties 12