

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970228
2. **Type of request:** 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:** 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i)
5. **State:** Vermont
6. **Region:** NERO
7. **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 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; 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.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of PRWORA, also provides that, upon the 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 resides 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)(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 Vermont is requesting to exempt from these requirements individuals residing in the 13 towns listed below.

Vermont asks to waive 9 of these towns based on having an unemployment rate exceeding 20% above the national average for the 24-month period of October 2010-September 2012.

Four other towns we request consideration for a 1-year waiver based on average unemployment rates above 10% for a recent 3-month period. These areas have an average unemployment rate of at least 10 percent during the 12-month period of October 2012 through September 2013.

Towns with average unemployment rates exceeding 20% above the national average for October, 1, 2010 – September 30, 2012.	Towns with average unemployment rates exceeding 10% for December 2012-February 2013 (3-month period)	Towns with average unemployment rates exceeding 10% for February 2013- April 2013 (3-month period)
Barton town	Concord town	Brighton town
Brunswick town	Eden town	Sheffield town
Dover town		
Isle La Motte town		
Killington town		
Newport city		
Norton town		
Pittsfield town		
East Haven town		

9. Justification for request: As stated in number 8 above, 9 of the towns requested for waiver have an average unemployment rate exceeding 20 % above the national average for the 24 month period of October 2010- September 2012.

Four other towns we request consideration for a 1-year waiver based on average unemployment rates above 10% for a recent 3-month period. These areas had an average unemployment rate of at least 10 percent for December 2012-February 2013 (3 month period) or, had an average unemployment rate exceeding 10% for February 2013- April 2013 (3 month period).

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, 2012 represent 4.086% 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 one-year waiver from 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:

 Patricia Dada, Director, AHS/DCF Food and Nutrition Programs

Date of request: September 6, 2013