

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 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.

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 three contiguous counties.

The State seeks a waiver for one contiguous area eligible based on aggregate average unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2012-March 2014.

Combined Sub-region:

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, April 2012-March 2014
Benson County	6.7
Pierce County	4.6
Rolette County	12.0
Total for Combined Sub-region	9.0
20% Above National Average Threshold	9.0

Rolette County qualifies based on having an aggregate average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month month period of April 2012-March 2014, and Pierce and Benson Counties qualify based on the aggregate average unemployment rate of the combined region. During this time period, the national average for unemployment was 7.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 9.0 percent. This combined area, composed of Benson, Pierce, and Rolette Counties, had an aggregate average of 9 percent.

10. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above belong to a contiguous region with 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:

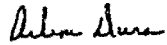
The caseload for these 3 counties was 3,485 as of May 31, 2014, and represents 13.8% of the caseload for the state. Rolette and Pierce Counties had no errors cited in FFY 2013 and Benson County had one error (\$77.00). The statewide error rate for FFY 2013 is 2.30%. The ABAWD provisions do not apply to Rolette and Pierce Counties in FFY 2014.

Quality Control data through March 2014 shows Benson, Pierce and Rolette Counties have had no errors cited. The current statewide error rate is 0.25%.

13. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Dure".

16. Date of request:

June 26, 2014