



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

Nicholas A. Toupas
Commissioner

Terry R. Smith
Director

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July 14, 2014

JUL 22 2014

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) 2015. 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, Stratford, and Wentworth Location, New Hampshire. As of June 20, 2014 there were a total of 94 individuals in these towns who met the ABAWD 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 603-271-9287.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Smith, Director
Division of Family Assistance

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 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.”

8. Proposed procedures:

The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt from these requirements individuals residing in three individual towns and one combined area of two contiguous towns.

The three towns are eligible based on having average unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of May 2012-April 2014. During this time period, the national average for unemployment was 7.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 8.9 percent.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MAY 2012 – APRIL 2014
Dummer town	9.7
Errol town	9.4
Wentworth Location	16.9
National Average Plus 20 Percent	8.9

The State would like to request to exempt individuals in one area composed of two contiguous towns, with an aggregate average unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent above the national average during the 24-month period of May 2012-April 2014.

AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MAY 2012 – APRIL 2014
Stark town	9.6
Stratford town	8.5
Total for Combined Area	9.0
National Average Plus 20 Percent	8.9

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas requested have average unemployment rates of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-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.

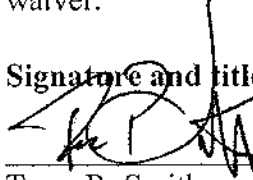
11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas, as of June 30, 2014 represents .013% 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, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

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:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry R. Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

Terry R. Smith
Director, Division of Family Assistance

15. **Date of request:**
July 14, 2014

**AREAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
MAY 2012 - APR 2014
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

	from Step 2		from Step 4		Step 5		Step 6		Step 7	
	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014	MAY 2012 - APR 2014
Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers									
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 24-month labor force totals									
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers									
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 24-month unemployed totals									
	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)				
Individual towns										
Dummer town, NH	3,918	379	0.09673	0.0967	9.67	9.7				
Errol town, NH	3,506	330	0.09412	0.0941	9.41	9.4				
Wentworth location, NH	372	63	0.16935	0.1693	16.93	16.9				
Regional Grouping										
Stark town, NH	5,778	557	0.09640	0.0964	9.64	9.6				
Stratford town, NH	8,118	694	0.08549	0.0854	8.54	8.5				
Total for Region	13,896	1,251	0.09003	0.0900	9.00	9.0				
National Unemployment	3,728,425	277,164	0.07434	0.0743	7.43	7.4				
Threshold - 20% Above the National Average				0.0891	8.91	8.9				

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

