

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

970225

2. Type of request:

Modification and Extension

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

Alabama

5. Region:

SERO

6. 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 the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3 year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with, the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

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 time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. Description of alternative procedures:

The State of Alabama is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 13 counties from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

8. Justification for request:

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent.

The State of Alabama seeks a waiver for a total of 13 counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of March 2013 through February 2015. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 7.9 percent. The unemployment rate of each of the counties for which Alabama is requesting a waiver was above 7.9 percent for this period.

Areas requesting waivers	March 2013-February 2015		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Barbour County	22,155	213,299	10.4%
Choctaw County	9,786	109,252	9.0%
Clarke County	25,142	195,448	12.9%
Conecuh County	11,833	111,593	10.6%
Dallas County	44,871	382,051	11.7%
Greene County	8,972	71,693	12.5%
Hale County	15,313	147,835	10.4%
Lowndes County	12,491	94,456	13.2%
Monroe County	20,872	182,264	11.5%
Perry County	10,706	83,687	12.8%
Sumter County	11,363	128,520	8.8%
Washington County	16,018	158,270	10.1%
Wilcox County	12,030	67,281	17.9%
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.9%		

9. 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.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseloads for these 13 counties, as of June 2015, represent 7.29% of the caseload for the state. These counties are rural, with no large metropolitan centers within the county and limited in resources available for job training and employment. There are no quality control procedures involved.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

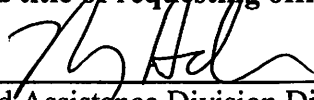
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Alabama Department of Human Resources, Food Assistance Division

Contact person: Brandon Hardin, Food Assistance Division Director

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Food Assistance Division Director

Email for transmission of response: Brandon.Hardin@dhr.alabama.gov

15. Date of request: 7/29/2016

16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):

Brandon Hardin

Brandon.Hardin@dhr.alabama.gov

(334)242-1747

17. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):

Alabama 2016 Waiver Request

Legend:

- Not Requesting (White)
- Requesting (Black)

Counties labeled on the map:

- Lauderdale
- Limestone
- Madison
- Jackson
- Colbert
- Lawrence
- Morgan
- Marshall
- DeKalb
- Franklin
- Marion
- Winston
- Cullman
- Blount
- Etowah
- Cherokee
- Lamar
- Fayette
- Walker
- St. Clair
- Calhoun
- Cleburne
- Pickens
- Tuscaloosa
- Shelby
- Talladega
- Clay
- Randolph
- Bibb
- Chilton
- Coosa
- Tallapoosa
- Chambers
- Greene
- Hale
- Perry
- Sumter
- Autauga
- Elmore
- Lee
- Marengo
- Dallas
- Montgomery
- Macon
- Russell
- Lowndes
- Bullock
- Choctaw
- Wilcox
- Butler
- Crenshaw
- Pike
- Barbour
- Clarke
- Monroe
- Conecuh
- Washington
- Escambia
- Covington
- Geneva
- Houston
- Dale
- Henry
- Mobile
- Baldwin

☐ Not Requesting
☒ Requesting

**AREAS IN ALABAMA THAT ARE REQUESTING WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
MAR 13- FEB 15
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

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

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
	MAR 13- FEB 15	MAR 13- FEB 15	MAR 13- FEB 15	MAR 13- FEB 15	MAR 13- FEB 15
	Total	Total number	Average	Average	Average
	labor force	of unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate
			(unrounded)	(4 decimal places)	(multiply by 100)
					(one decimal place)
U.S. National Average	3,738,474,000	245,827,000	0.06576	0.0657	
20% Above the National Average Threshold				0.0788	7.88
					7.9
Counties Requesting Waiver					
Barbour County	213,299	22,155	0.10387	0.1038	10.38
Choctaw County	109,252	9,786	0.08957	0.0895	8.95
Clarke County	195,448	25,142	0.12864	0.1286	12.86
Conecuh County	111,593	11,833	0.10604	0.1060	10.60
Dallas County	382,051	44,871	0.11745	0.1174	11.74
Greene County	71,693	8,972	0.12514	0.1251	12.51
Hale County	147,835	15,313	0.10358	0.1035	10.35
Lowndes County	94,456	12,491	0.13224	0.1322	13.22
Monroe County	182,264	20,872	0.11452	0.1145	11.45
Perry County	83,687	10,706	0.12793	0.1279	12.79
Sumter County	128,520	11,363	0.08841	0.0884	8.84
Washington County	158,270	16,018	0.10121	0.1012	10.12
Wilcox County	67,281	12,030	0.17880	0.1788	17.88