



STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Colorado
5. **Region:** MPRO
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, 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 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 Colorado is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 25 counties and 2 cities from SNAP time limits established in 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Justification for request:** Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for a time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has a 24-month unemployment rate average that exceeds the national average for this same 24-month time period by 20 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Colorado has one cluster of 25 contiguous counties that are eligible for a waiver based on the Region's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2013 through December 2014. Twenty percent above the U.S. national average for this period was 8.1 percent; the region's unemployment rate for this period was 8.1 percent. These unemployment rates were calculated from the Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Contiguous counties	24-Month Labor Force Total, January 2013-December 2014	24-Month Unemployment Total, January 2013-December 2014
Alamosa County	181,588	14,984
Archuleta County	137,608	10,008
Baca County	46,384	1,595
Bent County	39,885	2,545
Cheyenne County	23,647	832
Conejos County	86,974	7,934
Costilla County	38,687	3,914
Crowley County	31,720	2,125
Custer County	47,060	2,580
Delta County	331,281	25,578
Fremont County	355,622	33,238
Gunnison County	232,820	11,076
Hinsdale County	10,531	438
Huerfano County	59,834	7,087
Kiowa County	18,358	716
Las Animas County	159,343	14,893
Lincoln County	51,113	2,515
Mineral County	10,239	562
Montrose County	465,259	37,697
Otero County	195,835	16,808
Pitkin County	262,312	14,804
Pueblo County	1,760,136	150,612
Rio Grande County	116,926	11,830
Saguache County	71,785	7,055
San Juan County	11,410	780
Total	4,746,357	382,206
Unemployment rate, January 2013-December 2014	8.1	
20% Above National Average Threshold, January 2013-December 2014	8.1	

In addition, the state would like to request that two cities be waived based on also having unemployment rates that are twenty percent above the national average for the period of January 2013-December 2014.

City	Labor Force Total January 2013- December 2014	Unemployment Total, January 2013- December 2014	Unemployment Rate
Fountain	277,154	22,483	8.1
Grand Junction	717,075	61,003	8.5
20% Above National Average Threshold			8.1

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 caseload for these areas, as of **DATE**, represent 9.83% of the caseload for the state. 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:** **Colorado Department of Human Services, SNAP E&T, Colorado Employment First.**

Lena Wilson
Food and Energy Assistance Division Director
Lena.Harris-Wilson@state.co.us

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



Title: Food and Energy Assistance Division Director
Email for transmission of response: Lena.Harris-Wilson@state.co.us

15. **Date of request:** **July 1, 2015**
16. **State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** Roberta.Montoya@state.co.us
303-866-6058
17. **Regional office contact person** (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):