



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

July 7, 2015

Ms. Peggy Fouts, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southeast Regional Office
61 Forsyth Street, NW
Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Fouts:

The Georgia Food Stamp Employment and Training (E&T) Program is submitting a request to extend the ABAWD Waiver through December 31, 2016 in 152 of Georgia's 159 counties. Georgia qualifies for a waiver based on its average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 2015. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.4 percent; 20 percent above this rate was 7.7 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 7.7 percent for this period. The waiver request is attached for your review.

The counties subject to the (3/36) time-limit are: Gwinnett, Cobb and Hall counties. These counties do not qualify for the ABAWD waiver.

If you have questions regarding this waiver, please contact Kimberlin Donald, Interim Food and Nutrition Unit Manager at (404) 657-3608 or Sandra Frederick, E&T Program Coordinator at (404) 657-3738. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby D. Cagle".

Bobby D. Cagle, Director
Division of Family and Children Services

Attachment: GA FS ABAWD Waiver Request for FFY 2016

Cc: Jon M. Anderson, DFCS Deputy Director, Family Independence
Lucy Smith, OFI Field Operations Director
Ann Carter, OFI State Operations Director
Kimberlin Donald, Interim Food and Nutrition Unit Manager

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

970088

2. Type of request:

Modification

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

Georgia

5. Region:

SERO

6. Regulatory requirements:

The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(b) state that 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 a total of 20 hours per week.

The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f) state that 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:

Georgia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 152 counties from the 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 is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. The regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define the areas to be waived.

Georgia seeks a waiver for an area of contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2013 through April 2015. This area includes 152 counties. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.4 percent; 20 percent above this rate was 7.7 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 7.7 percent for this period.

May 2013 through April 2015		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Clayton County, GA	286,249	3,000,230
Rockdale County, GA	81,874	1,013,966
Fulton County, GA	896,685	12,261,486
Douglas County, GA	123,484	1,619,745
Henry County, GA	185,320	2,489,120
Burke County, GA	23,406	225,193
Columbia County, GA	93,705	1,569,048
Glascock County, GA	2,636	30,635
Hancock County, GA	7,900	62,989
Jefferson County, GA	19,406	160,191
Jenkins County, GA	8,397	78,858
Lincoln County, GA	7,052	82,327
McDuffie County, GA	21,748	215,590
Richmond County, GA	182,144	2,062,791
Taliaferro County, GA	1,555	14,233
Warren County, GA	6,636	65,073
Washington County, GA	15,592	180,845
Wilkes County, GA	8,763	90,024
Bulloch County, GA	62,538	823,632
Glynn County, GA	69,201	900,634
Liberty County, GA	49,313	620,666
McIntosh County, GA	11,693	141,520
Screven County, GA	13,644	131,239
Camden County, GA	36,419	521,961
Long County, GA	11,666	159,157
Franklin County, GA	18,808	221,478
Hart County, GA	19,826	248,428
Rabun County, GA	13,706	159,122
Lumpkin County, GA	24,297	364,150
Stephens County, GA	21,295	270,715
Towns County, GA	8,830	97,760
Union County, GA	15,024	225,075
Appling County, GA	19,346	208,112
Bleckley County, GA	13,311	111,361

Candler County, GA	8,932	121,496
Dodge County, GA	18,790	181,426
Emanuel County, GA	23,018	206,661
Evans County, GA	7,531	113,092
Jeff Davis County, GA	13,360	153,700
Johnson County, GA	8,448	94,648
Laurens County, GA	44,225	456,961
Montgomery County, GA	9,785	94,592
Tattnall County, GA	17,208	229,466
Telfair County, GA	13,106	125,174
Toombs County, GA	30,364	299,559
Treutlen County, GA	7,358	66,981
Wayne County, GA	25,999	286,383
Wheeler County, GA	5,527	45,145
Wilcox County, GA	6,639	68,146
Baldwin County, GA	40,018	441,764
Bibb County, GA	137,062	1,664,641
Peach County, GA	27,500	280,214
Pulaski County, GA	8,087	99,240
Putnam County, GA	18,121	194,249
Twiggs County, GA	8,735	73,703
Wilkinson County, GA	8,053	89,209
Crawford County, GA	10,475	135,867
Houston County, GA	110,361	1,586,469
Jones County, GA	21,281	325,895
Monroe County, GA	21,153	304,638
Elbert County, GA	18,020	196,240
Newton County, GA	97,500	1,153,925
Greene County, GA	13,111	152,326
Jasper County, GA	10,887	156,596
Morgan County, GA	13,713	201,229
Clarke County, GA	96,799	1,385,908
Oglethorpe County, GA	10,527	161,729
Murray County, GA	37,337	382,567
Whitfield County, GA	88,652	1,076,159
Chattooga County, GA	20,042	251,587
Gordon County, GA	47,876	623,588
Floyd County, GA	85,457	1,041,963
Gilmer County, GA	21,776	285,392
Haralson County, GA	23,060	287,208
Fannin County, GA	18,671	234,169

Bartow County, GA	83,448	1,129,758
Polk County, GA	34,888	439,977
Pickens County, GA	22,477	331,646
Walker County, GA	50,985	711,075
Dade County, GA	12,597	192,527
Paulding County, GA	114,227	1,797,298
Catoosa County, GA	46,594	748,574
Chattahoochee County, GA	5,893	58,319
Clay County, GA	2,468	22,158
Crisp County, GA	21,914	227,785
Dooly County, GA	11,240	110,082
Harris County, GA	23,132	375,918
Macon County, GA	13,728	113,130
Marion County, GA	6,441	81,706
Muscogee County, GA	169,676	1,965,331
Quitman County, GA	1,760	21,379
Randolph County, GA	6,275	65,173
Schley County, GA	4,105	51,275
Stewart County, GA	4,318	53,150
Sumter County, GA	31,945	322,754
Talbot County, GA	5,663	68,220
Taylor County, GA	7,623	71,915
Webster County, GA	2,051	24,441
Atkinson County, GA	6,861	86,378
Bacon County, GA	8,312	115,405
Ben Hill County, GA	14,602	135,061
Berrien County, GA	15,530	172,983
Brantley County, GA	15,692	166,850
Brooks County, GA	12,094	161,636
Charlton County, GA	9,241	116,620
Clinch County, GA	5,782	67,265
Coffee County, GA	36,464	421,366
Cook County, GA	14,797	177,518
Echols County, GA	2,509	43,553
Irwin County, GA	7,774	77,237
Lanier County, GA	7,235	92,002
Lowndes County, GA	89,212	1,220,393
Pierce County, GA	14,789	193,165
Tift County, GA	33,225	439,017
Turner County, GA	6,401	77,845
Ware County, GA	29,653	356,293

Calhoun County, GA	3,922	50,980
Decatur County, GA	23,346	274,181
Dougherty County, GA	88,491	935,457
Colquitt County, GA	40,565	487,877
Mitchell County, GA	16,932	211,604
Terrell County, GA	7,349	86,211
Seminole County, GA	7,202	75,013
Worth County, GA	17,464	218,229
Baker County, GA	2,466	27,287
Early County, GA	8,925	102,916
Thomas County, GA	34,926	415,975
Grady County, GA	18,108	249,771
Lee County, GA	21,522	338,348
Miller County, GA	4,145	63,832
Butts County, GA	19,427	244,659
Carroll County, GA	105,135	1,246,047
Coweta County, GA	100,677	1,590,241
Heard County, GA	9,817	120,424
Lamar County, GA	18,340	187,113
Meriwether County, GA	21,012	212,827
Pike County, GA	14,340	199,419
Spalding County, GA	65,658	664,084
Troup County, GA	66,754	869,868
Upson County, GA	25,138	275,050
Cherokee County, GA	156,889	2,797,396
Forsyth County, GA	125,034	2,334,729
Banks County, GA	13,111	193,582
Madison County, GA	20,224	308,656
Barrow County, GA	53,917	835,513
Bryan County, GA	24,363	371,033
Chatham County, GA	232,279	3,158,126
Dawson County, GA	16,211	259,400
DeKalb County, GA	662,452	8,872,279
Effingham County, GA	39,612	629,955
Fayette County, GA	80,560	1,292,553
Habersham County, GA	32,250	455,231
Total for Region	6,848,217	89,517,303
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	7.7%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	7.7%	

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and state agency operations in the 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):

As of 5/31/15, the caseload count for these areas represented 91% of the caseload for the state.

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

Georgia is requesting a one-year waiver for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

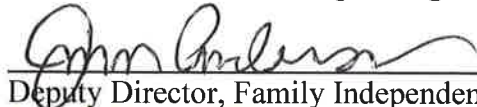
12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Jon Anderson, Deputy Director, Family Independence

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Deputy Director, Family Independence

Jon.Anderson@dhs.ga.gov

15. Date of request:

July 7, 2015

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

Ann C. Carter, OFI State Operations Director

Ann.Carter@dhs.ga.gov

404-651-8701

Kimberlin Donald, Interim Food & Nutrition Unit Manager

Kimberlin.Donald@dhs.ga.gov

404-657-3608

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