



Bruce Rauner, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

James T. Dimas, Secretary-designate

June 19, 2015

Ms. Susan Holzer, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Midwest Region
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Holzer:

Illinois is requesting waiver approval under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver request is to exempt Illinois residents for the entire state from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24, to be effective January 1, 2016 and remain in effect through December 31, 2016.

We believe Illinois qualifies for a statewide waiver based on having an unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 – December 2014. The national average unemployment rate for this time period was 6.8 percent; Illinois' average unemployment rate for the same period was 8.1 percent, 20 percent higher than the national average.

Attached please find documentation to support our request. If you have any questions, please let me know. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Leslie Cully
Illinois SNAP Director
IDHS Family & Community Services

Attachments

Cc: Grace Hong-Duffin
Barb Payne
Alan Summers
Kris Grove
Kate McAtee

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150013
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Illinois
5. **Region:** MWRO
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, 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 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.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Illinois is requesting a statewide waiver from the time limit for calendar year 2016.
8. **Justification for request:** This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the time limit in 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State having an unemployment rate at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2013-December 2014. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(ii) states that, "To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area (...) has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. This 24-month period may not be any earlier than the same 24-month period the ETA uses to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year." Illinois' average unemployment rate for the period of January 2013-December 2014 was 8.1 percent. The national average for this time period was 6.8 percent; 20 percent above that was 8.1 percent. The time period that the Department of Labor uses to determine Labor Surplus Areas for Fiscal Year 2016 is January 2013-December 2014, the same time period used to support this waiver request. The data is below, and attached.

	Labor Force Totals, January 2013-December 2014	Unemployment Totals, January 2013-December 2014	Average Unemployment Rate, January 2013-December 2014
Illinois	156,954,683	12,653,879	8.1
20% Above the National Average Threshold	8.1		

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable): This waiver affects the entire state.

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 quality control procedures involved.

12. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:
Illinois Department of Human Services
Leslie Cully, Illinois SNAP Director

13. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Illinois SNAP Director

Email for transmission of response: Leslie.Cully@illinois.gov

14. Date of request: June 19, 2015

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

Leslie Cully

Leslie.Cully@illinois.gov

217-524-9156

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

**ILLINOIS IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
JAN 2013 - DEC 2014
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 JAN 2013 - DEC 2014	from Step 4 JAN 2013 - DEC 2014	Step 5 JAN 2013 - DEC 2014 Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Step 6 JAN 2013 - DEC 2014 Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Step 7 JAN 2013 - DEC 2014 Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed			
Illinois	156,954,683	12,653,879	0.08062	0.0806	8.1
National Unemployment Threshold - 20% Above the National Average	3,735,732	252,915	0.06770	0.0677 0.0812	6.8 8.1

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

Data extracted on: March 23, 2015 (9:31:10 AM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
Labor force status: Civilian labor force
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Download:

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	147125(1)	147649	147745	148274	148878	150327	151122	150469	149838	150304	150239	149874
2006	149090(1)	149686	150027	150209	150696	152557	153208	152465	151635	152397	152590	152571
2007	151924(1)	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493	153400	153516	154035	153705
2008	152828(1)	152503	153135	153208	154003	155582	156300	155387	154509	155012	154624	154349
2009	153445(1)	153804	153728	153834	154336	155921	156255	154897	153617	153635	153539	152693
2010	152957(1)	153194	153660	153911	153866	154767	155270	154678	153854	153652	153698	153156
2011	152536(1)	152635	153022	152898	153449	154538	154812	154344	154022	154088	153683	153373
2012	153485(1)	154114	154316	153905	154998	156385	156526	155255	155075	155779	154953	154904
2013	154794(1)	154727	154512	154739	155734	157089	157196	155971	155536	154918	155046	154408
2014	154381(1)	155027	155627	154845	155841	156997	157573	156434	155903	156616	156297	155521
2015	156050(1)	156213										

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
 Labor force status: Unemployed
 Type of data: Number in thousands
 Age: 16 years and over

Download:

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	8444	8549	7986	7335	7287	7870	7839	7327	7259	6964	7271	6956
2006	7608	7692	7255	6804	6655	7341	7602	7086	6625	6272	6576	6491
2007	7649	7400	6913	6532	6486	7295	7556	7088	6952	6773	6917	7371
2008	8221	7953	8027	7287	8076	8933	9433	9479	9199	9469	10015	10999
2009	13009	13699	13895	13248	13973	15095	15201	14823	14538	14547	14407	14740
2010	16147	15991	15678	14609	14369	14885	15137	14759	14140	13903	14282	13997
2011	14937	14542	14060	13237	13421	14409	14428	14008	13520	13102	12613	12692
2012	13541	13430	12904	11910	12271	13184	13400	12696	11742	11741	11404	11844
2013	13181	12500	11815	11014	11302	12248	12083	11462	10885	10773	10271	9984
2014	10855	10893	10537	9079	9443	9893	10307	9787	8962	8680	8630	8331
2015	9498	9095										

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Data extracted on: March 23, 2015 (9:23:56 AM)

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Series
Id: LAUST1700000000000003, LAUST1700000000000004, LAUST1700000000000005, LAUST1700000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Area: Illinois
Area Type: Statewide
State/Region/Division: Illinois

Download:

Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment ra
2013	Jan	6558434	5882715	675719	10.3
2013	Feb	6544547	5899268	645279	9.9
2013	Mar	6506896	5909538	597358	9.2
2013	Apr	6511052	5948949	562103	8.6
2013	May	6555064	5978280	576784	8.8
2013	Jun	6664923	6021162	643761	9.7
2013	Jul	6653665	6026471	627194	9.4
2013	Aug	6570471	5972808	597663	9.1
2013	Sep	6546762	5984475	562287	8.6
2013	Oct	6521769	5955713	566056	8.7
2013	Nov	6529604	5988344	541260	8.3
2013	Dec	6496548	5962486	534062	8.2
2014	Jan	6489696	5916747	572949	8.8
2014	Feb	6522049	5945094	576955	8.8
2014	Mar	6523273	5991825	531448	8.1
2014	Apr	6470045	6026891	443154	6.8
2014	May	6505671	6059657	446014	6.9
2014	Jun	6592021	6124587	467434	7.1
2014	Jul	6607402	6126763	480639	7.3
2014	Aug	6528402	6080754	447648	6.9
2014	Sep	6502048	6101762	400286	6.2
2014	Oct	6534634	6139999	394635	6.0
2014	Nov	6528265	6138899	389366	6.0
2014	Dec	6491442	6117617	373825	5.8
2015	Jan	6456311(P)	6012371(P)	443940(P)	6.9(P)

P : Preliminary.

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