

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150033

2. **Type of request:** Modification

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24

4. **State:** Arizona

5. **Region:** WRO

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 Arizona is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 12 counties, one independent city and 18 Native American Reservations 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. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Arizona requests to waive 12 counties that are eligible for a waiver based on this region's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2014 through March 2016. During this time period, the national average for unemployment was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.6 percent. The region's unemployment rate for this period was 10 percent.

April 2014 through March 2016		
County	Unemployed	Labor Force
Apache County, AZ	69,249	499,882
Cochise County, AZ	91,761	1,208,814
Coconino County, AZ	115,586	1,748,877
Gila County, AZ	40,621	512,124
Graham County, AZ	25,871	350,423
Greenlee County, AZ	7,659	100,377
La Paz County, AZ	14,513	195,995
Mohave County, AZ	153,532	1,898,144
Navajo County, AZ	98,383	989,913
Pinal County, AZ	242,443	3,761,021
Santa Cruz County, AZ	56,351	481,279
Yuma County, AZ	484,468	2,248,102
Total for Region	1,400,437	13,994,951
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	10.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.6%	

The State requests to waive one independent city based on having an unemployment rate that was 20 percent above the national average for the period of April 2014 through March 2016. The city's unemployment rate was 9.1 percent, above the national average threshold for the same time period.

April 2014 through March 2016			
Area	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Apache Junction city, Maricopa County part, AZ	132	1,446	9.1%
20% Above National Average Threshold			6.6%

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2014 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from April 2014 - March 2016. The following table summarizes the calculations:

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

April 2014 through March 2016			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Yuma County (part); Arizona (part); Cocopah Reservation, AZ	3,249	7,568	42.9%
Total Cocopah Reservation	3,249	7,568	42.9%

La Paz County (part); Arizona (part); Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ--CA	6,852	95,481	7.2%
Total Colorado River Indian Reservation	6,852	95,481	7.2%

Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	1,295	4,406	29.4%
Gila County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	3,696	17,742	20.8%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	27,880	129,290	21.6%
Total Fort Apache Reservation	32,870	151,439	21.7%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation, AZ	607	7,723	7.9%
Total Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation	607	7,723	7.9%

Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Mojave Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--CA--NV	957	9,881	9.7%
Total Fort Mojave Reservation	957	9,881	9.7%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	4,661	22,428	20.8%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	15,851	86,233	18.4%
Total Gila River Indian Reservation	20,512	108,660	18.9%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Havasupai Reservation, AZ	269	2,044	13.2%
Total Havasupai Reservation	269	2,044	13.2%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	824	10,541	7.8%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	4,803	58,915	8.2%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	0	0	-
Total Hopi Reservation	5,628	69,455	8.1%

Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,614	13,650	11.8%
Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	0	0	-
Total Hualapai Indian Reservation	1,614	13,650	11.8%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Kaibab Indian Reservation, AZ	0	0	-
Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Kaibab Indian Reservation, AZ	533	2,658	20.1%
Total Kaibab Indian Reservation	533	2,658	20.1%

Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation, AZ	1,467	12,509	11.7%
Total Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation	1,467	12,509	11.7%

Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	57,477	355,198	16.2%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	32,030	227,833	14.1%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	27,941	176,422	15.8%
Total Navajo Nation Reservation	117,448	759,453	15.5%

Pima County (part); Arizona (part); Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	3,536	30,498	11.6%
Total Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation	3,536	30,498	11.6%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Salt River Reservation, AZ	4,483	49,435	9.1%
Total Salt River Reservation	4,483	49,435	9.1%

Gila County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	8,710	45,545	19.1%
Graham County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	7,008	39,956	17.5%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	0	0	-
Total San Carlos Reservation	15,718	85,501	18.4%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,124	4,976	22.6%
Pima County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	9,947	73,862	13.5%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	2,194	6,648	33.0%
Total Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation	13,265	85,486	15.5%

Gila County (part); Arizona (part); Tonto Apache Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	81	917	8.9%
Total Tonto Apache Reservation	81	917	8.9%

Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation, AZ	1,122	10,083	11.1%
Total Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation	1,122	10,083	11.1%

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 **May 13, 2016**, represents **26.72%** of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

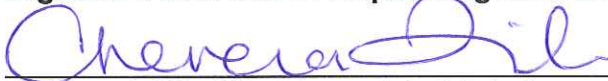
11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

13. Signature and title of requesting official:



Chevera Trillo, Workforce Administrator
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Employment and Rehabilitation Services
1789 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602.542.3667
ctrillo@azdes.gov

14. Date of request:

7/11/16

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

Jutta Ulrich, Workforce Policy and Support Team Manager
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Employment and Rehabilitation Services – Workforce Administration
602.771.1322
julrich@azdes.gov

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