

**WAIVER REQUEST
CALIFORNIA ABLE BODIES ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)**

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150019
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** WRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be 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 ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of California is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 54 counties from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** Recognizing the complexity of the rule and the systems and operational requirements necessary to implement effectively, California is requesting early approval of this waiver. This request is based on 21 months of unemployment data from the allowable time frame in place of the required 24 months of unemployment data. Early approval would provide 12 months of preparation time and better equip the State and our county partners to successfully implement the ABAWD time limit beginning January 1, 2018. We request that FNS consider our 2018 waiver request at this time in support of our efforts to fully comply with federal program rules.

Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may support a claim of insufficient jobs by submitting 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 California seeks a waiver for a regional group of 54 contiguous counties based on the region having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 21-month period of January 2015 through

September 2016. The national average unemployment rate for this 21-month period was 5.2 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.2 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period was also 6.2 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2015 through September 2016		
Contiguous County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Alameda County	796,234	17,393,274
Alpine County	827	11,356
Amador County	19,370	304,962
Butte County	150,219	2,139,663
Calaveras County	26,866	433,345
Colusa County	35,946	234,640
Contra Costa County	556,727	11,591,047
Del Norte County	17,040	207,892
El Dorado County	102,444	1,877,819
Fresno County	925,907	9,380,284
Glenn County	23,774	277,127
Humboldt County	70,707	1,312,565
Imperial County	389,826	1,663,951
Inyo County	10,809	192,481
Kern County	854,325	8,297,204
Kings County	125,704	1,225,455
Lake County	44,612	615,135
Lassen County	16,270	227,546
Los Angeles County	6,404,567	105,573,109
Madera County	127,975	1,285,924
Mariposa County	11,872	169,944
Mendocino County	47,396	844,413
Merced County	268,354	2,420,992
Modoc County	5,818	68,953
Mono County	10,192	176,389
Monterey County	366,957	4,663,558
Napa County	69,554	1,580,419
Nevada County	53,016	1,021,299
Orange County	1,451,014	33,676,791
Placer County	181,281	3,754,943
Plumas County	16,989	167,384
Riverside County	1,419,971	21,814,208
Sacramento County	839,114	14,520,171

San Benito County	46,012	628,439
San Bernardino County	1,211,283	19,521,721
San Diego County	1,652,326	32,950,625
San Joaquin County	572,833	6,686,404
San Luis Obispo County	135,124	3,020,714
San Mateo County	303,608	9,337,697
Santa Barbara County	237,648	4,641,204
Santa Cruz County	221,899	3,043,528
Shasta County	118,157	1,568,840
Sierra County	2,420	28,215
Siskiyou County	34,285	378,960
Solano County	255,707	4,355,286
Stanislaus County	469,232	5,120,438
Sutter County	97,757	942,817
Tehama County	40,836	525,886
Trinity County	8,249	110,490
Tulare County	490,193	4,295,250
Tuolumne County	31,039	455,497
Ventura County	494,981	9,019,048
Yolo County	134,786	2,188,795
Yuba County	53,383	592,430
Combined Area Total	22,053,435	358,536,527
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.2%	

- 10. 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.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion (if applicable):** The caseload for these areas, as of June 2016, represent 94.7% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:**
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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

California Department of Social Services, CalFresh Branch
Alexis Fernández
Chief, CalFresh Policy Section
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15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Kim McCoy Wade
Chief, CalFresh Branch
California Department of Social Services

16. Date of request: November 23, 2016

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

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