



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

December 30, 2016

Mr. Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Regional Office
Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart,

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is requesting an eight month extension of its Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver, which is scheduled to end December 31, 2017. If approved, the waiver extension would be effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018 and would apply statewide.

This request is based on 24 months of unemployment data for the period of January 2014 to December 2015 and indicates that California's unemployment rate remains 20 percent above the national average. The justification for the waiver request has been provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and is attached for your consideration

If you have any questions, you may contact Alexis Fernández, Chief of the CalFresh Policy Section at 916-653-6162.

Sincerely,

Todd Bland
Deputy Director, Welfare to Work Division
California Department of Social Services
916. 657-3546 | Todd.bland@dss.ca.gov

**WAIVER REQUEST
CALIFORNIA ABLE BODIED 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 a statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** 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 statewide waiver based on the State having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. The national average for this period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this is 6.9 percent. California's average unemployment rate for this period is 6.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 through December 2015		
	Unemployed	Labor force
California	31,116,469	453,716,337
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
20% Above the National Average	6.9%	

- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

California Department of Social Services, CalFresh Branch
Alexis Fernández
Chief, CalFresh Policy Section
916.653.6162 | Alexis.Fernandez@dss.ca.gov

13. Signature and title of requesting official:



Todd Bland
Deputy Director, Welfare to Work Division
916. 657-3546 | Todd.bland@dss.ca.gov

Email for transmission of response: KimMcCoy.Wade@dss.ca.gov

14. Date of request: 12/30/2016

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

Alexis Fernández
Chief, CalFresh Policy Section
916.653.6162 | Alexis.Fernandez@dss.ca.gov

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