

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
N/A
2. **Type of request:**
Amendment and 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:**
Colorado
6. **Region:**
MPRO
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 Colorado is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 12 counties and 2 cities 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.

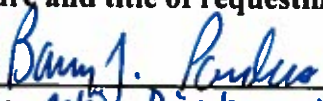
The State of Colorado seeks a waiver for a regional group of 12 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2014-December 2015. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.9 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 6.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 through December 2015		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Alamosa County	11,230	182,242
Bent County	1,842	40,537
Conejos County	5,885	88,140
Costilla County	3,025	38,954
Crowley County	1,631	31,579
Fremont County	25,217	350,854
Huerfano County	5,112	57,667
Las Animas County	10,007	151,908
Mineral County	440	10,349
Otero County	12,874	191,946
Rio Grande County	9,052	117,185
Saguache County	5,440	73,543
Combined Area Total	91,755	1,334,904
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%	

The State of Colorado would also like to request that 2 cities be waived based on having individual unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the period of January 2014-December 2015.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 through December 2015			
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Longmont city, Weld County part	131	1,274	10.3
Pueblo city	79,876	1,119,453	7.1
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%		

- 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 affection portion (if applicable):**
The caseload for these areas, as of July 22, 2016, represents approximately 15% 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 October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:**
There is no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
- 14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**
Colorado Department of Human Services, SNAP E&T, Colorado Employment First

Katie Griego
Employment & Benefits Division Director
Katie.Griego@state.co.us
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Title: *Acting Director, office of Economic Security*
Email for transmission of response: *barry.pardus@state.co.us*
- 16. Date of request:**
July 22, 2016
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
Jessica.Valand@state.co.us, 303-866-2383
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**

Colorado is Requesting a Waiver for 12 Counties and 2 Cities in 2017

