

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2150020

2. Type of request:

Modification

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:

Connecticut

6. Region:

NERO

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 Connecticut is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 123 towns and cities from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24. This request would modify the state's waiver approved for 2017 by adding seven counties to the group of approved counties.

9. 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 is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The State of Connecticut seeks a waiver for a region of 123 contiguous cities and towns based on the region's combined average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period is 6.3 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
August 2014 – July 2016		
Cities/Towns	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Andover town	2,142	46,244
Ansonia city/town	18,387	227,431
Ashford town	2,912	60,886
Barkhamsted town	2,637	55,185
Beacon Falls town	4,286	81,674
Berlin town	13,329	280,276
Bethany town	3,372	74,211
Bethel town	12,303	257,295
Bethlehem town	2,296	47,106
Bloomfield town	17,432	274,635
Bozrah town	1,926	34,719
Branford town	19,604	382,868
Bridgeport city/town	151,125	1,712,546
Bridgewater town	923	20,655
Bristol city/town	51,844	790,445
Brookfield town	10,183	223,969
Brooklyn town	5,882	98,542
Canterbury town	4,095	68,675
Chaplin town	1,836	30,010
Clinton town	8,408	174,685
Colchester town	10,346	224,918
Colebrook town	942	20,282
Columbia town	3,684	77,321
Coventry town	8,493	184,852
Cromwell town	9,176	190,187
Deep River town	3,154	69,179
Derby city/town	11,599	165,176
East Haddam town	6,141	120,068
East Hampton town	8,221	182,259
East Hartford town	49,155	659,007
East Haven town	24,388	378,439
East Lyme town	11,013	207,268

East Windsor town	9,279	155,669
Eastford town	931	22,400
Ellington town	10,389	217,875
Enfield town	31,696	552,410
Essex town	3,833	80,136
Fairfield town	33,525	698,783
Franklin town	1,386	25,914
Goshen town	1,854	39,677
Griswold town	10,699	151,861
Groton town	23,526	444,316
Hamden town	43,455	840,161
Hampton town	1,320	24,700
Hartford city/town	138,665	1,300,307
Hartland town	1,279	27,340
Harwinton town	3,434	76,990
Killingly town	15,970	230,155
Lebanon town	4,873	97,943
Ledyard town	9,516	190,985
Lisbon town	3,471	56,279
Manchester town	44,263	783,665
Mansfield town	16,123	300,607
Meriden city/town	56,320	772,911
Middlebury town	4,042	91,350
Middlefield town	2,818	59,988
Middletown city/town	36,027	627,257
Milford (consolidated) city/town	36,118	715,569
Monroe town	12,443	245,744
Montville town	13,833	225,582
Morris town	1,533	34,411
Naugatuck borough/town	27,535	415,272
New Britain city/town	73,184	880,492
New Fairfield town	8,194	173,909
New Hartford town	4,659	95,802
New Haven city/town	117,943	1,541,738
New London city/town	24,322	289,919
New Milford town	18,015	372,441
Newington town	20,070	413,259
Norfolk town	1,096	21,735
North Branford town	9,157	195,510
North Canaan town	1,955	40,965
North Haven town	15,296	318,847

North Stonington town	3,422	69,675
Norwalk city/town	59,967	1,209,504
Norwich city/town	35,558	489,084
Old Lyme town	4,094	89,939
Old Saybrook town	5,788	121,660
Oxford town	8,260	171,029
Plainfield town	14,722	208,026
Plainville town	13,531	249,673
Plymouth town	11,015	161,043
Pomfret town	2,439	59,326
Portland town	6,392	130,920
Preston town	3,309	58,146
Prospect town	6,435	132,709
Putnam town	7,862	116,224
Salem town	2,719	50,819
Scotland town	1,214	22,983
Seymour town	13,292	216,732
Shelton city/town	29,228	531,776
Somers town	6,104	123,790
Southbury town	11,105	212,501
Southington town	27,620	581,030
Sprague town	2,627	39,111
Stafford town	10,017	163,676
Sterling town	3,596	48,795
Stonington town	11,199	230,051
Stratford town	43,866	665,756
Suffield town	8,318	180,649
Thomaston town	5,708	113,297
Thompson town	6,852	125,097
Torrington city/town	30,463	476,527
Trumbull town	20,855	435,579
Union town	540	11,131
Vernon town	22,936	409,117
Voluntown town	2,088	35,700
Wallingford town	30,967	627,098
Warren town	942	19,210
Waterbury city/town	114,872	1,224,995
Waterford town	12,629	243,245
Watertown town	15,482	311,451
West Haven city/town	49,971	720,083
Westbrook town	4,351	86,395

Westport town	12,733	300,493
Wethersfield town	16,733	335,357
Winchester town	9,162	151,700
Windham town	21,305	299,086
Windsor Locks town	10,000	176,186
Windsor town	21,947	395,825
Wolcott town	11,354	235,115
Woodbury town	5,846	133,041
Woodstock town	4,831	99,377
Total for Region	2,161,547	34,571,619
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.3%	

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 June 2016, represents 92.03% 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, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

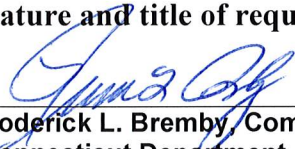
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Connecticut Department of Social Service
Marc Shok, SNAP Director

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Roderick.Bremby@ct.gov

16. Date of request: October 5, 2016

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

Marc Shok, SNAP Director
Connecticut Department of Social Services
(860) 424-5246
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18. Regional office contact person (*to be completed by FNS regional office*):