

**DC**DEPARTMENT of
HUMAN SERVICES**JAN 13 2017**

Mr. Eric Ratchford
Regional Director
USDA/FNS/MARO
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

The District of Columbia currently has a waiver to suspend time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) throughout the District through December 31, 2017. Please accept this letter as notification of the District of Columbia's request to extend the suspension of time limits for ABAWDS throughout the District through December 31, 2018. The supporting documentation and waiver application is attached.

If you have any questions, please call me on 202-698-3906.

Sincerely,

Anthea Seymour
Administrator

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Modification 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:** District of Columbia
6. **Region:** WARO
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 District of Columbia is requesting a 2-year waiver for the entire District from SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:** This request to exempt residents residing in the entire District from the time limit in 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the District having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of December 2013 through November 2016. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(ii) states that, "To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area (...) has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period." Guidance issued by FNS in February 2006 states that areas can be eligible for two-year waivers if they demonstrate that an area has "an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request".¹

The District of Columbia seeks a two-year waiver based on the District having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for

¹ Memo dated February 3, 2006. "FSP – 2-Year Approval of Waivers of the Work Requirements for ABAWDs under 7 CFR 273.24." <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/020306.pdf>

the 36-month period of December 2013 through November 2016. The District's average unemployment rate for this 36-month period was 7.0 percent. The national average for this period was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data December 2013 through November 2016		
	Unemployed	Labor force
District of Columbia	970,828	13,916,236
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	6.6%	

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 District.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The District is requesting a two-year waiver, from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Title: Administrator

Email for transmission of response:

Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

JAN 13 2017

16. Date of request:

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

**Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov**

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ELIGIBLE FOR A 2-YEAR WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
 DEC 2013 - NOV 2016
 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly labor force numbers
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month labor force totals
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for monthly unemployed numbers
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1-4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	
	DEC 2013 - NOV 2016	DEC 2013 - NOV 2016	DEC 2013 - NOV 2016	DEC 2013 - NOV 2016	DEC 2013 - NOV 2016	
Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	13,916,236	970,828	0.069762	0.0697	6.97	7.0
National Unemployment Threshold - 20% Above the National Average	5,662,307	310,779	0.054886	0.0548 0.0657	5.48 6.57	5.5 6.6

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
 Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Original Data Value

Series Id: LNU01000000, LNU03000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level, (Unadj) Unemployment Level

Labor force stat Civilian labor force

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Years: 2013 to 2016

National 36-Month Unemployment Averages

Year	Month	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (Rounded)	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
2013	Jan	154794	13181	Jan-13	Dec-15	5,621,291	352,471	6.3	7.5
2013	Feb	154727	12500	Feb-13	Jan-16	5,623,844	347,599	6.2	7.4
2013	Mar	154512	11815	Mar-13	Feb-16	5,627,396	343,318	6.1	7.3
2013	Apr	154739	11014	Apr-13	Mar-16	5,631,738	339,619	6.0	7.2
2013	May	155734	11302	May-13	Apr-16	5,635,487	336,018	6.0	7.2
2013	Jun	157089	12248	Jun-13	May-16	5,638,553	331,923	5.9	7.1
2013	Jul	157196	12083	Jul-13	Jun-16	5,641,599	327,819	5.8	7.0
2013	Aug	155971	11462	Aug-13	Jul-16	5,645,108	324,003	5.7	6.9
2013	Sep	155536	10885	Sep-13	Aug-16	5,648,937	320,537	5.7	6.8
2013	Oct	154918	10773	Oct-13	Sep-16	5,653,037	317,310	5.6	6.7
2013	Nov	155046	10271	Nov-13	Oct-16	5,657,902	313,984	5.5	6.6
2013	Dec	154408	9984	Dec-13	Nov-16	5,662,307	310,779	5.5	6.6
2014	Jan	154381	10855						
2014	Feb	155027	10893						
2014	Mar	155627	10537						
2014	Apr	154845	9079						
2014	May	155841	9443						
2014	Jun	156997	9893						
2014	Jul	157573	10307						
2014	Aug	156434	9787						
2014	Sep	155903	8962						
2014	Oct	156616	8680						
2014	Nov	156297	8630						
2014	Dec	155521	8331						
2015	Jan	156050	9498						
2015	Feb	156213	9095						
2015	Mar	156318	8682						
2015	Apr	156554	7966						
2015	May	157719	8370						
2015	Jun	158283	8638						
2015	Jul	158527	8805						
2015	Aug	157390	8162						
2015	Sep	156607	7628						
2015	Oct	157313	7597						
2015	Nov	157340	7573						
2015	Dec	157245	7542						
2016	Jan	157347	8309						
2016	Feb	158279	8219						
2016	Mar	158854	8116						
2016	Apr	158488	7413						
2016	May	158800	7207						
2016	Jun	160135	8144						
2016	Jul	160705	8267						
2016	Aug	159800	7996						
2016	Sep	159636	7658						
2016	Oct	159783	7447						
2016	Nov	159451	7066						

Local Area Unemployment Statistics
Original Data Value

Series Id: LAUST110000000000003,LAUST110000000000005,LAUST110000000000006

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area: District of Columbia

Area Type: Statewide

State/Region District of Columbia

Years: 2013 to 2016

District of Columbia 36-Month Unemployment Averages

Year	Period	labor force	unemployment	Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (Rounded)	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
2013	Jan	374035	34039	Jan-13	Dec-15	13,683,654	1,055,643	7.7	7.5
2013	Feb	375926	33452	Feb-13	Jan-16	13,701,829	1,047,580	7.6	7.4
2013	Mar	373728	32107	Mar-13	Feb-16	13,720,610	1,041,342	7.6	7.3
2013	Apr	372869	30018	Apr-13	Mar-16	13,740,701	1,034,103	7.5	7.2
2013	May	372147	30862	May-13	Apr-16	13,763,830	1,025,852	7.5	7.2
2013	Jun	376775	33359	Jun-13	May-16	13,784,261	1,015,359	7.4	7.1
2013	Jul	380127	33320	Jul-13	Jun-16	13,806,785	1,006,407	7.3	7.0
2013	Aug	372667	32104	Aug-13	Jul-16	13,826,130	997,847	7.2	6.9
2013	Sep	371025	31803	Sep-13	Aug-16	13,843,565	991,173	7.2	6.8
2013	Oct	371722	32037	Oct-13	Sep-16	13,862,422	984,747	7.1	6.7
2013	Nov	373007	29839	Nov-13	Oct-16	13,890,023	977,293	7.0	6.6
2013	Dec	371989	28345	Dec-13	Nov-16	13,916,236	970,828	7.0	6.6
2014	Jan	370910	30037						
2014	Feb	373430	30334						
2014	Mar	371928	29062						
2014	Apr	371087	26640						
2014	May	372408	27357						
2014	Jun	379717	30115						
2014	Jul	384990	31173						
2014	Aug	379888	30649						
2014	Sep	381583	30191						
2014	Oct	383857	29492						
2014	Nov	384187	29098						
2014	Dec	383003	28088						
2015	Jan	384871	29830						
2015	Feb	386773	29285						
2015	Mar	384644	27213						
2015	Apr	384502	24937						
2015	May	384242	25361						
2015	Jun	390496	27536						
2015	Jul	395770	28021						
2015	Aug	389855	27026						
2015	Sep	387821	26332						
2015	Oct	390409	25983						
2015	Nov	391291	25845						
2015	Dec	389975	24753						
2016	Jan	392210	25976						
2016	Feb	394707	27214						
2016	Mar	393819	24868						
2016	Apr	395998	21767						
2016	May	392578	20369						
2016	Jun	399299	24407						
2016	Jul	399472	24760						
2016	Aug	390102	25430						
2016	Sep	389882	25377						
2016	Oct	399323	24583						
2016	Nov	399220	23374						