



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

July 15, 2016

Ms. Peggy Fouts, Regional Director
U.S.D.A Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southeast Regional Office
6 Forsyth Street, NW, Suite 8-T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Fouts:

The Georgia Food Stamp Employment and Training (E&T) Program is submitting a request to extend the ABAWD Waiver through December 31, 2017 in 135 of Georgia's 159 counties. Georgia will operate an ABAWD time-limited program in 24 counties. The State of Georgia seeks a waiver for a region of 135 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016. The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this rate was 6.5 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 6.6 percent. The waiver request is attached for your review.

Three counties (Cobb, Gwinnett and Hall) are currently operating an ABAWD time-limited program and will continue to do so in 2017. The 21 additional counties that will be subject to the ABAWD 3/36 time-limit beginning in January 2017 are: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Brooks, Catoosa, Clarke, Coweta, Dade, Fayette, Forsyth, Gordon, Heard, Jackson, Lowndes, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Troup, Walker and Walton.

If you have questions regarding this waiver, please contact Sandra Frederick, E&T Coordinator at 404-657-3738 or Kimberlin Donald, Food and Nutrition Unit Manager at (404) 657-3608. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby D. Cagle".

Bobby D. Cagle
DFCS Director

Enclosures: GA 2017 ABAWD Waiver

cc: Jon M. Anderson, DFCS Deputy Director, Office of Family Independence
Ann Carter, OFI State Operations Director
Lucy Smith, OFI Field Operations Director
Mary Beth Lukich, Chief Information Officer
Melissa Belk, Interim Quality Management Section Director
Kimberlin Donald, Food and Nutrition Unit Manager
Sandra Frederick, E&T Program Coordinator

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:

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Office of Family Independence
Kimberlin Donald

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Jon Anderson

DECS Deputy Director, Family Independence

Jon.Anderson@dhs.ga.gov

16. Date of request: July 15, 2016

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

Kimberlin Donald/ Kimberlin.Donald@dhs.ga.gov/404 657-3608

Sandra Frederick/ Sandra.Frederick@dhs.ga.gov/404-657-3738

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

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150036
2. **Type of request:** Extension and 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:** Georgia
6. **Region:** SERO

7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

Georgia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 135 counties of the state from the SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

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 Georgia seeks a waiver for a region of 135 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016.

The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.5 percent. The region's unemployment rate was 6.6 percent for the same time period.

May 2014 – April 2016		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Appling County, GA	15,724	209,889
Atkinson County, GA	5,524	92,031
Bacon County, GA	6,970	120,262
Baker County, GA	2,129	27,458
Baldwin County, GA	33,818	422,555
Ben Hill County, GA	11,983	129,303
Berrien County, GA	12,518	170,258
Bibb County, GA	113,891	1,646,353
Bleckley County, GA	10,255	107,321
Brantley County, GA	12,858	166,342
Bryan County, GA	20,909	378,917
Bulloch County, GA	52,678	836,133
Burke County, GA	18,789	219,634
Butts County, GA	16,164	243,375
Calhoun County, GA	3,252	51,491
Camden County, GA	30,862	535,740
Candler County, GA	7,101	120,907
Carroll County, GA	87,641	1,255,432
Charlton County, GA	7,487	115,233
Chatham County, GA	195,820	3,201,006
Chattahoochee County, GA	4,831	53,070
Chattooga County, GA	16,931	251,506
Cherokee County, GA	137,777	2,864,816
Clay County, GA	2,355	21,293
Clayton County, GA	236,429	3,004,261
Clinch County, GA	4,883	68,262
Coffee County, GA	29,126	421,549
Colquitt County, GA	32,611	478,022
Columbia County, GA	83,464	1,596,675
Cook County, GA	12,204	175,299
Crawford County, GA	8,656	134,636
Crisp County, GA	16,489	224,659
Dawson County, GA	13,792	261,961
Decatur County, GA	19,584	272,871
DeKalb County, GA	556,803	8,920,986
Dodge County, GA	14,930	170,798
Dooly County, GA	8,969	114,734
Dougherty County, GA	73,554	916,291
Douglas County, GA	105,714	1,638,034
Early County, GA	8,098	105,334
Echols County, GA	2,166	43,969
Effingham County, GA	34,172	640,948
Elbert County, GA	14,192	185,689
Emanuel County, GA	18,276	202,915
Evans County, GA	6,482	113,176
Fannin County, GA	15,507	241,370
Floyd County, GA	70,965	1,030,099

Franklin County, GA	14,918	221,724
Fulton County, GA	758,163	12,340,079
Gilmer County, GA	17,560	282,849
GlascocK County, GA	2,070	29,929
Glynn County, GA	56,585	894,986
Grady County, GA	15,820	250,875
Greene County, GA	11,112	153,546
Habersham County, GA	27,035	454,338
Hancock County, GA	6,049	58,501
Haralson County, GA	19,227	286,516
Harris County, GA	20,396	373,368
Hart County, GA	16,075	248,641
Henry County, GA	158,363	2,508,580
Houston County, GA	95,414	1,569,681
Irwin County, GA	6,350	74,442
Jasper County, GA	8,791	154,229
Jeff Davis County, GA	10,547	153,555
Jefferson County, GA	14,520	154,706
Jenkins County, GA	6,672	76,301
Johnson County, GA	6,830	93,052
Jones County, GA	18,283	328,671
Lamar County, GA	14,998	187,184
Lanier County, GA	6,333	90,877
Laurens County, GA	35,649	447,753
Lee County, GA	18,574	337,259
Liberty County, GA	40,491	610,257
Lincoln County, GA	5,612	80,314
Long County, GA	10,072	160,424
Lumpkin County, GA	20,438	364,843
Macon County, GA	10,751	112,781
Marion County, GA	6,588	82,878
McDuffie County, GA	18,148	209,904
McIntosh County, GA	9,595	142,759
Meriwether County, GA	17,358	210,892
Miller County, GA	3,777	64,804
Mitchell County, GA	14,718	211,172
Monroe County, GA	17,946	305,328
Montgomery County, GA	7,988	90,860
Morgan County, GA	11,551	203,508
Murray County, GA	30,281	380,766
Muscogee County, GA	145,806	1,908,017
Newton County, GA	80,820	1,158,255
Peach County, GA	22,540	273,505
Pickens County, GA	18,655	334,247
Pierce County, GA	12,429	195,055
Pike County, GA	11,716	198,287
Polk County, GA	29,834	434,195
Pulaski County, GA	6,614	97,136
Putnam County, GA	15,279	187,798
Quitman County, GA	1,485	20,383
Rabun County, GA	10,887	156,923
Randolph County, GA	5,575	60,749
Richmond County, GA	154,355	2,023,633
Rockdale County, GA	68,067	1,015,363
Schley County, GA	3,502	50,761

Screven County, GA	10,816	124,404
Seminole County, GA	6,411	75,087
Spalding County, GA	53,392	657,914
Stephens County, GA	17,579	260,365
Stewart County, GA	3,495	51,501
Sumter County, GA	26,600	313,210
Talbot County, GA	4,894	65,660
Taliaferro County, GA	1,229	14,021
Tattnall County, GA	13,876	226,249
Taylor County, GA	6,268	66,653
Telfair County, GA	10,715	120,079
Terrell County, GA	6,399	86,599
Thomas County, GA	30,366	405,779
Tift County, GA	27,850	435,371
Toombs County, GA	25,534	289,545
Towns County, GA	7,715	95,398
Treutlen County, GA	5,869	66,090
Turner County, GA	5,392	78,188
Twiggs County, GA	6,896	71,365
Union County, GA	12,908	233,928
Upton County, GA	20,048	268,119
Ware County, GA	23,796	355,144
Warren County, GA	5,248	64,047
Washington County, GA	12,590	176,423
Wayne County, GA	21,206	276,614
Webster County, GA	2,059	23,838
Wheeler County, GA	4,680	42,303
White County, GA	17,791	331,830
Whitfield County, GA	72,833	1,075,403
Wilcox County, GA	5,357	66,737
Wilkes County, GA	6,979	89,457
Wilkinson County, GA	6,658	87,019
Worth County, GA	14,317	213,569
Total for Region	4,892,311	74,128,211
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.6%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.5%	

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 participant count for these areas, as of July 2016, represents 4% 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.

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