

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

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:

Idaho

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 Idaho is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 15 counties and 4 reservations 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 Idaho seeks a waiver for a region of 15 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate, and for 4 reservations based on their individual unemployment rates, for the 24-month period of May 2014 through April 2016.

The first region of contiguous counties includes Adams, Benewah, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Butte, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Idaho, Lemhi, Lewis, Shoshone, Valley, and Washington Counties. The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period from May 2014 to April 2016 was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.5 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 6.5 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2014 through April 2016		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Adams County	3,338	41,013
Benewah County	6,526	96,650
Boise County	4,434	71,717
Bonner County	27,415	442,194
Boundary County	6,682	120,444
Butte County	1,453	31,919
Clark County	365	10,093
Clearwater County	6,054	74,668
Custer County	3,279	51,560
Idaho County	9,622	153,822
Lemhi County	5,703	80,677
Lewis County	2,266	38,774
Shoshone County	10,100	124,098
Valley County	7,114	113,216
Washington County	6,502	109,672
Combined Area Total	100,853	1,560,517
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.5%	

The state also seeks a waiver for 4 reservations: Coeur d'Alene, Duck Valley, Fort Hall, and Nez Perce Reservations. During the period of May 2014 to April 2016, each of these reservations had an average unemployment rate of at least 6.5 percent, 20 percent higher than the national average unemployment rate during the same period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2014 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data for May 2014 - April 2016.

May 2014 through April 2016			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Benewah County (part); Idaho (part); Coeur d'Alene Reservation, ID	3,195	47,996	6.7%
Kootenai County (part); Idaho (part); Coeur d'Alene Reservation, ID	2,044	27,441	7.4%
Coeur d'Alene Reservation	5,240	75,437	6.9%

Owyhee County (part); Idaho (part); Duck Valley Reservation, NV--ID	518	2,654	19.5%
Duck Valley Reservation	518	2,654	19.5%

Bannock County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	2,653	26,029	10.2%
Bingham County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	3,635	28,005	13.0%
Caribou County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	0	0	-
Power County (part); Idaho (part); Fort Hall Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, ID	539	10,116	5.3%
Fort Hall Reservation	6,826	64,150	10.6%

Clearwater County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	4,250	48,100	8.8%
Idaho County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	2,453	38,138	6.4%
Lewis County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	2,244	38,751	5.8%
Nez Perce County (part); Idaho (part); Nez Perce Reservation, ID	4,177	53,578	7.8%
Nez Perce Reservation	13,124	178,567	7.3%

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 July 26, 2016 represents 9.44% 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.

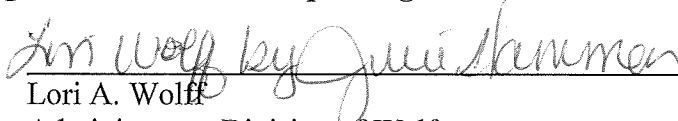
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Contact: Kristin Matthews, SNAP Program Manager
MattheK1@dhw.idaho.gov

15. Signature and title of requesting official:


Lori A. Wolff
Administrator, Division of Welfare
Email for transmission of response: WolffL@idhw.idaho.gov

16. Date of request: August 1, 2016

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

Kristin Matthews
(208)334-5553
MattheK1@dhw.idaho.gov

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