

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160020
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Louisiana
5. **Region:** SWRO
6. **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.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Louisiana is requesting a statewide waiver from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **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 Louisiana seeks a statewide waiver based on the State having an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of September 2014 through August 2016. Louisiana's average unemployment rate for this period was 6.4 percent. The national average for this period was 5.2 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data September 2014 through August 2016		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Louisiana	3,309,918	51,907,747
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	
20% Above the National Average	6.3%	

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

As of November 2016, Louisiana's SNAP case load was 439,618 households representing 951,922 recipients and the statewide error rate for FFY 2015 was .075 percent.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

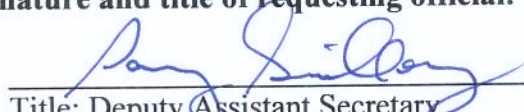
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Kim Matherne

14. Signature and title of requesting official:


Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary
Email for transmission of response: Sammy.Guillory.DCFS@la.gov

15. Date of request: December 8, 2016

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

Kim Matherne/ Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov / 225-219-2428

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