



FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

July 19, 2016

Eric Ratchford, Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

Attached is Maryland's waiver request to exempt able-bodied adults without dependants (ABAWDs) in specific jurisdictions within the State from the ABAWD time limit.

The waiver of time limits for ABAWD clients is based on evidence showing counties or regions of the State with average unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average and counties or regions with low and declining employment-to-population ratios. These data were compiled for us by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) based on recent Bureau of Labor statistics.

Thank you for your consideration of Maryland's waiver request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 767-7338 or Ann Flagg at (410) 767-2346.

Sincerely,

Tracey C. Paliath
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Ann Flagg
Sara Muempfer
Carrie Durham

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:** Maryland
6. **Region:** MARO
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 Maryland is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 13 counties 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 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 Maryland seeks a waiver for three clusters of counties with average unemployment rates that are twenty percent above the national average for the 24-

month period of April 2014 - March 2016. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.6 percent.

The State of Maryland would like to request a waiver for 9 contiguous counties in the Eastern Shore Region based on having an average unemployment rate of 6.7 percent for April 2014 - March 2016:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
April 2014 through March 2016		
Eastern Shore Region	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Caroline County	23,998	417,453
Cecil County	77,517	1,272,538
Dorchester County	28,931	378,485
Kent County	14,372	251,799
Queen Anne's County	30,000	638,130
Somerset County	19,230	225,220
Talbot County	23,642	460,093
Wicomico County	85,434	1,215,881
Worcester County	66,769	622,238
Combined Area Total	369,893	5,481,837
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.6%	

In addition, the State of Maryland would like to request a waiver for 2 counties in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region¹ based on having an average unemployment rate of 7.0 percent for April 2014 - March 2016:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
April 2014 through March 2016		
Baltimore Region	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Baltimore City	557,424	7,085,989
Harford County	168,708	3,267,363
Combined Area Total	726,132	10,353,352
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.6%	

¹ For example, see <http://www.baltometro.org/about-bmc/about-the-region>

The State of Maryland would also like to request a waiver for 2 contiguous counties in the Western Maryland Region based on having an average unemployment rate of 7.0 percent for April 2014 - March 2016:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data		
April 2014 through March 2016		
Western Maryland Region	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Allegany County	56,554	789,730
Garrett County	24,800	373,084
Combined Area Total	81,354	1,162,814
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	7.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.6%	

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 size for ABAWDs in the state of Maryland is 46,404.
The ABAWD caseload is 36% of SNAP E&T work registrants in Maryland for Federal Fiscal Year 2016.

Maryland ABAWD Caseload 46,404

Baltimore Metro	ABAWD	% of ABAWD Caseload
Baltimore City	16,013	34.51%
Harford County	1,318	2.84%

Eastern Shore	ABAWD	% of ABAWD Caseload
Caroline County	365	0.79%
Cecil County	973	2.10%
Dorchester County	672	1.45%
Kent County	207	0.45%
Queen Anne's County	304	0.66%
Somerset County	513	1.10%
Talbot County	308	0.66%

Wicomico County	1,231	2.65%
Worcester County	497	1.07%

Western Maryland	ABAWD	% of ABAWD Caseload
Allegany County	1,235	2.66%
Garrett County	273	0.59%

Total	23,909	51.52%
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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.

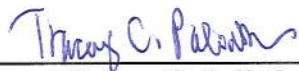
13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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

Maryland Department of Human Resources

State Contact: Tracey Paliath

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Name: Tracey C. Paliath

Title: Executive Director of the Family Investment Administration

Email for transmission of response: tracey.paliath@maryland.gov

15. Date of request:

July 15, 2016

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

Sara K. Muempfer, Director of Workforce Development, sara.muempfer@maryland.gov, 410-767-3045

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

Maryland is Requesting a Waiver for 13 Counties

