

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160002
2. **Type of request:**
Modification to add two additional counties to this FY 2017 waiver.
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:**
Minnesota
6. **Region:**
MWRO
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 Minnesota is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 15 counties and 1 reservation from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24. This request would modify the state's waiver approved for 2017 by adding two counties, Morrison and Pine counties, to the group of approved counties.
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 Minnesota seeks a waiver for one individual county based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent. The average unemployment rate for the county was 6.8 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2014 through July 2016			
County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Marshall County	9,399	137,629	6.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.3%		

The State of Minnesota seeks a waiver for a region of 14 contiguous counties based on its average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of August 2014 through July 2016. The region's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent for the same time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2014 through July 2016		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Aitkin County	10,031	163,749
Cass County	22,723	337,531
Clearwater County	10,634	111,982
Hubbard County	14,273	229,768
Itasca County	37,775	545,358
Kanabec County	14,567	212,065
Koochiching County	12,303	151,182
Lake of the Woods County	2,631	58,923
Mahnomen County	3,107	58,236
Mille Lacs County	18,212	308,505
Norman County	3,930	81,865
Wadena County	9,034	152,252
Morrison County	23,655	427,179
Pine County	19,954	355,380
Total for Region	202,829	3,193,975
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.4%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.3%	

The State requests to waive the following reservation based on having an average unemployment rate exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rate was calculated by applying 2014 American

Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from August 2014 – July 2016. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data August 2014 through July 2016			
Reservation	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Scott County (part); Minnesota (part); Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MN	175	1,943	9.0%
Total Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Reservation	175	1,943	9.0%

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 **DATE**, represent **XX%** 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:

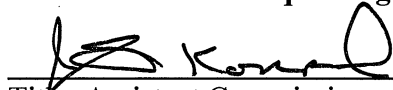
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

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:

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Assistant Commissioner Children and Family Services

Email for transmission of response: jim.koppel@state.mn.us

16. Date of request: October 18, 2017

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Karen Nelsen-Huss SNAP Program Consultant – 651-431-4027; karen.nelsen-huss@state.mn.us

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

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

