



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

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Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Terry R. Smith
Director

AUG 15 2016

August 11, 2016

Bonnie Brathwaite
Food Stamp Program
USDA/FNS, Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

Enclosed, please find New Hampshire's request for a waiver to exempt certain identified Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) from the ABAWD employment and training requirements for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017. This waiver request will be submitted electronically. When printed, the supporting documentation is unweildly and difficult to follow, so it will be included in the electronic waiver request. As always, the Center for Budget and Policies Priorities (CBPP) has been extrememly helpful in assisting New Hampshire develop this waiver.

The identified ABAWDS for whom the exemption is sought live in the towns of Cambridge, Clarksville, Columbia, Dixville, Dummer, Errol, Ellsworth, Hale's Location, Hart's Location, Millsfield, Northumberland, Stark, Stratford and Wentworth Location, New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's waiver request is based on 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to waive employment and training requirements for ABAWDS if the area in which the individuals live does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie A. Green, the Food Stamp Program Manager, at 603-271-9287.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Smith, Director
Division of Family Assistance

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2130035

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:

New Hampshire

6. Region:

NERO

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:

The State of New Hampshire is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 14 towns 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 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 New Hampshire seeks a waiver for 3 eligible individual towns and an eligible region of 11 towns based on their average unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.9 percent.

The State seeks a waiver for the individual towns of Ellsworth, Hale's location and Hart's location, based on their individual unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015.

January 2014 through December 2015			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Ellsworth town, NH	108	1,264	8.5%
Hale's Location, NH	71	1,011	7.0%
Hart's Location town, NH	99	982	10.1%
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%		

The State also seeks a waiver for an eligible region of 11 contiguous towns based on its average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. The average unemployment rate for this region was 6.9 percent for this time period.

January 2014 through December 2015		
	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Cambridge township, NH	0	72
Clarksville town, NH	223	2,850
Columbia town, NH	405	7,647
Dixville township, NH	0	48
Dummer town, NH	300	3,844
Errol town, NH	310	4,123
Millsfield township, NH	0	94
Northumberland town, NH	1,544	25,242
Stark town, NH	395	5,333
Stratford town, NH	544	6,370
Wentworth Location, NH	129	393
Total Region	3,850	56,016
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%	