



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

December 27, 2016

Eric Ratchford, Regional Director
Food and Nutritional Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
US Department of Agriculture-MARO
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

Enclosed is a request to allow New Jersey to waive the ABAWD provision for select counties for the upcoming year.

Based upon an analysis of Labor market data, New Jersey is seeking to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties for calendar year 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Braasch of my staff at (609) 588-2405.

Sincerely,

Natasha Johnson
Director

Enclosure

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2. Type of request:

2017 ABAWD Waiver

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

New Jersey

5. Region:

MARO

6. 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.

7. Description of alternative procedures:

The State of New Jersey seeks to waive the application of the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) time limit provisions of 7 CFR 273.24 for Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties for calendar year 2017.

8. Justification for request:

According to SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if 12-month average unemployment exceeds 10% or if the 24-month labor market information reveals that there are insufficient number of jobs in the area. New Jersey seeks to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties for calendar year 2017. These counties meet the criteria in 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2).

The State of New Jersey seeks permission to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties. The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of September 2014 through August 2016 was 5.2 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent. The unemployment rates for the same period for requested areas are: Atlantic – 9.0%; Cape May – 10.6%; and Cumberland – 8.4%.

September 2014 – August 2016		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Atlantic County, NJ	274,923	3,056,577
Cape May County, NJ	124,721	1,181,015
Cumberland County, NJ	136,313	1,614,050
Combined Unemployment Rate		9.3%
20% Above National Average Threshold		6.3%

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide relief to ABAWD individuals who are residing in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties which meet the labor market qualifications to be granted a waiver of the ABAWD provisions.

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

The caseloads for these areas, as of September 2016, represent 9% of the overall SNAP caseload, and 11% of the ABAWD population for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

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

The State is requesting a waiver from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 for the identified counties.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

New Jersey Department of Human Services
 Division of Family Development
 Natasha Johnson
 Director

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Director

Email for transmission of response: Natasha.johnson@dhs.state.nj.us

15. Date of request: December 27, 2016

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

Larry Braasch

Assistant Division Director

Larry.braasch@dhs.state.nj.us

(609) 588-2405

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