



January 13, 2017

Ms. Bonnie Brathwaite, Director, SNAP
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Regional Office
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite,

Please find attached Rhode Island's State Waiver Request to modify and extend our current statewide waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD's) statewide except for the Town of Richmond, RI from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits established by 7CFR 273.24. Rhode Island's current statewide waiver is through December 31, 2017. Based on the State of Rhode Island having an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that exceeds the national average for the same 24-month period by 20 percent, RI is requesting an extension and modification through August 31, 2018.

Also attached is the Excel sheet showing the BLS data used and calculations, HTML files showing BLS data downloaded and a map showing the requested areas.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at kimberly.nikolaidis@dhs.ri.gov or contact Iwona Ramian, SNAP Administrator, at iwona.ramian@dhs.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Nikolaidis
Assistant SNAP Administrator

Attachments

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:**
Modification 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:**
Rhode Island
6. **Region:**
NERO
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 Rhode Island is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 38 cities and towns.
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 Rhode Island seeks a waiver for a group of 38 contiguous cities and towns based on the region having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2014 through December 2015. The national average for this period was 5.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.9 percent. The average unemployment rate for this region was 6.9 percent for the same time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2014 through December 2015		
Cities/Towns	Unemployed	Labor force
Barrington town	9,209	200,775
Bristol town	17,762	290,960
Burrillville town	14,676	214,456
Central Falls city	17,729	206,807
Charlestown town	7,646	99,137
Coventry town	29,717	452,165
Cranston city	67,639	994,538
Cumberland town	25,739	463,660
East Greenwich town	9,923	164,889
East Providence city	42,749	584,023
Exeter town	5,660	94,320
Foster town	4,473	69,436
Glocester town	7,379	142,250
Hopkinton town	7,818	114,465
Jamestown town	3,568	77,220
Johnston town	26,987	375,872
Lincoln town	16,851	293,253
Little Compton town	2,435	45,418
Middletown town	11,350	191,515
Narragansett town	10,101	219,405
New Shoreham town	2,770	19,732
Newport city	18,810	321,801
North Kingstown town	19,032	352,383
North Providence town	29,984	431,764
North Smithfield town	9,120	162,267
Pawtucket city	69,235	875,301
Portsmouth town	13,103	212,390
Providence city	167,775	2,082,962
Scituate town	9,311	147,102
Smithfield town	16,795	270,669

South Kingstown town	24,535	397,370
Tiverton town	13,445	210,485
Warren town	9,472	137,843
Warwick city	66,544	1,107,695
West Greenwich town	4,961	76,785
West Warwick town	28,430	389,161
Westerly town	23,211	275,575
Woonsocket city	40,075	457,786
Total for Region	906,019	13,223,635
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.9%	

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):

This waiver affects the entire state except for the town of Richmond, RI, which comprises less than one percent of the state's population.

12. 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.

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:

Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Iwona Ramian, Esquire

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: SNAP Administrator

Email for transmission of response: iwona.ramian@dhs.ri.gov

16. Date of request: 1/13/17

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

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