

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2140019
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:**
Utah
6. **Region:**
MPRO
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 Utah is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 6 counties 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 or an unemployment rate over 10 percent for a recent 3- or 12-month period. To support this claim, states may submit 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 Utah seeks a waiver for a regional group of 6 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2014 through 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 unemployment rate for this region, shown below, was 6.7 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2014 through March 2016		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Carbon County	11,475	209,899
Emery County	6,253	107,926
Garfield County	5,790	66,344
Piute County	740	11,103
San Juan County	10,645	136,120
Wayne County	3,022	33,864
Combined Area Total	37,925	565,256
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.7%	
20% Above National Average Unemployment Rate 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):

This waiver will be applied to the entire state caseload for those living in the affected areas. 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: Utah, Paul Birkbeck, pbirkbec@utah.gov, (801) 580-0152.

15. Signature and title of requesting official:


 Title: Casey Cameron, Deputy Director
 Email for transmission of response: caseycameron@utah.gov

16. Date of request: July 7, 2016

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Paul Birkbeck,
pbirkbec@utah.gov, (801) 580-0152.

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