

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150033
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:** Arizona
6. **Region:** WRO
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 Arizona is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 12 counties and 17 reservations 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 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 Arizona seeks a waiver for a group of 12 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The average national unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 9.2 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Apache	60,568	493,454
Cochise	81,445	1,202,571
Coconino	110,691	1,766,394
Gila	38,458	507,127
Graham	24,615	351,756
Greenlee	7,359	95,181
La Paz	13,601	200,449
Mohave	139,539	1,911,710
Navajo	88,003	989,001
Pinal	226,479	3,843,078
Santa Cruz	50,639	473,139
Yuma	457,389	2,257,863
Combined Area Total	1,298,786	14,091,723
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	9.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

The State requests to waive one independent city based on having an unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the period of February 2015 through January 2017. The city's unemployment rate was 12.0 percent, above the national average threshold for the same time period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017			
City	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Apache Junction city, Maricopa County part	185	1,539	12.0%
20% Above National Average Threshold			6.0%

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2015 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level Bureau of Labor Statistics data from February 2015 through January 2017. The following table summarizes the calculations:

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment/Census Bureau Data February 2015 through January 2017			
	Unemploye d	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Yuma County (part); Arizona (part); Cocopah Reservation, AZ	3,144	8,825	35.6%
Total Cocopah Reservation	3,144	8,825	35.6%

La Paz County (part); Arizona (part); Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ-- CA	8,316	105,398	7.9%
Total Colorado River Indian Reservation	8,316	105,398	7.9%

Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	1,429	4,876	29.3%
Gila County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	3,212	15,580	20.6%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	25,420	111,416	22.8%
Total Fort Apache Reservation	30,060	131,872	22.8%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation, AZ	496	7,721	6.4%
Total Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation	496	7,721	6.4%

Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Fort Mojave Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ--CA--NV	1,056	8,158	13.0%
Total Fort Mojave Reservation	1,056	8,158	13.0%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	6,068	28,675	21.2%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ	16,524	79,348	20.8%
Total Gila River Indian Reservation	22,592	108,023	20.9%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Havasupai Reservation, AZ	266	904	29.5%
Total Havasupai Reservation	266	904	29.5%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	834	10,664	7.8%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Hopi Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	3,595	63,425	5.7%
Total Hopi Reservation	4,428	74,089	6.0%

Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ	-	-	-
Mohave County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,715	12,632	13.6%
Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Hualapai Indian Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ	-	-	-
Total Hualapai Indian Reservation	1,715	12,632	13.6%

Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,819	11,385	16.0%
Total Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation	1,819	11,385	16.0%

Apache County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	49,838	346,464	14.4%
Coconino County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	29,859	225,063	13.3%
Navajo County (part); Arizona (part); Navajo Nation Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT	24,940	169,415	14.7%
Total Navajo Nation Reservation	104,637	740,942	14.1%

Pima County (part); Arizona (part); Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	4,252	32,061	13.3%
Total Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation	4,252	32,061	13.3%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Salt River Reservation, AZ	4,823	54,791	8.8%
Total Salt River Reservation	4,823	54,791	8.8%

Gila County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	9,229	43,751	21.1%
Graham County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	8,984	36,597	24.5%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); San Carlos Reservation, AZ	-	-	-
Total San Carlos Reservation	18,213	80,348	22.7%

Maricopa County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	823	4,319	19.1%
Pima County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	10,374	70,410	14.7%
Pinal County (part); Arizona (part); Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	1,051	3,044	34.5%
Total Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation	12,248	77,773	15.7%

Gila County (part); Arizona (part); Tonto Apache Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ	73	725	10.0%
Total Tonto Apache Reservation	73	725	10.0%

Yavapai County (part); Arizona (part); Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation, AZ	1,342	10,037	13.4%
Total Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation	1,342	10,037	13.4%

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 affected portion (if applicable):

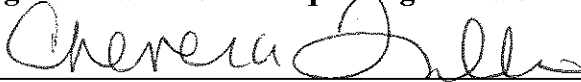
The caseload for these areas, as of 04/24/2017 represent 28.44% of the caseload for the state. During the 2016 Federal Fiscal Year, Arizona cited 201 case and procedural errors; of these cases, eight (8) were ABAWDs. None (0), were active quality control errors. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2018 through December 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:
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Gretchen Caraway, DERS Policy Administrator
Employment and Rehabilitation Services-Workforce Administration

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

 6.15.17
Chevera Trillo, Workforce Administrator
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Employment and Rehabilitation Services-Workforce Administration
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16. Date of request:

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

Gretchen Caraway
DERS Policy Administrator
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18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):