

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150019
2. **Type of request:** Extension and amendment
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:** California
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 dependent (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 36-month 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 California is requesting to exempt ABAWDs in 55 counties from the 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 California seeks a waiver for a regional group of 55 contiguous counties based on the region having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2015 through March 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.9 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period was also 5.9 percent. If approved, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties will implement the ABAWD time limit as of September 1, 2018.

The State of California requests timely consideration and approval of this request to effectively plan for implementation of the ABAWD time limit in these three counties. An early determination of which counties will implement the ABAWD time limit allows California to program necessary system changes, as well as begin client & stakeholder communications so that impacted communities are aware of the upcoming change.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2015 through March 2017		
County	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Alameda County	865,774	19,990,988
Alpine County	885	13,424
Amador County	21,048	348,978
Butte County	163,443	2,448,878
Calaveras County	29,030	499,149
Colusa County	40,532	262,866
Contra Costa County	604,095	13,281,262
Del Norte County	18,159	235,783
El Dorado County	111,121	2,140,324
Fresno County	1,024,068	10,667,132
Glenn County	26,129	313,048
Humboldt County	75,455	1,501,744
Imperial County	435,674	1,853,922
Inyo County	11,481	216,498
Kern County	954,791	9,337,323
Kings County	138,923	1,376,362
Lake County	48,162	702,635
Lassen County	17,560	253,968
Los Angeles County	6,761,384	120,706,910
Madera County	139,006	1,461,490
Marin County	110,928	3,371,918
Mariposa County	12,523	185,528
Mendocino County	50,949	955,605
Merced County	294,613	2,753,802
Modoc County	6,385	79,745
Mono County	11,083	200,609
Monterey County	406,891	5,287,958
Napa County	76,278	1,765,893
Nevada County	56,731	1,157,995
Orange County	1,571,561	38,322,456
Placer County	196,429	4,288,333

Plumas County	18,501	188,622
Riverside County	1,552,247	25,133,193
Sacramento County	913,941	16,632,532
San Benito County	49,618	711,707
San Bernardino County	1,308,299	22,358,576
San Diego County	1,790,363	37,552,977
San Joaquin County	628,433	7,629,681
San Luis Obispo County	145,602	3,358,745
Santa Barbara County	263,999	5,208,993
Santa Cruz County	242,905	3,457,362
Shasta County	126,769	1,789,901
Sierra County	2,523	32,334
Siskiyou County	37,168	429,500
Solano County	278,665	4,966,834
Sonoma County	252,814	6,229,094
Stanislaus County	510,550	5,844,513
Sutter County	107,180	1,083,565
Tehama County	43,798	604,643
Trinity County	8,787	122,348
Tulare County	546,984	4,926,346
Tuolumne County	33,239	521,983
Ventura County	540,022	10,269,902
Yolo County	150,772	2,536,974
Yuba County	58,638	676,250
Combined Area Total	23,892,908	408,249,101
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

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 affected portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas as of June 2017 is 1,888,119 households which represents 95% of the caseload for the state. 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 September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

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:

California Department of Social Services

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15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Kim McCoy Wade

Chief, CalFresh Branch

California Department of Social Services

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16. Date of request: September 18, 2017

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

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