



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

July 12, 2017

Ms. Peggy Fouts, Regional Director
USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southeast Regional Office
6 Forsyth Street, NW, Suite 8 – T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

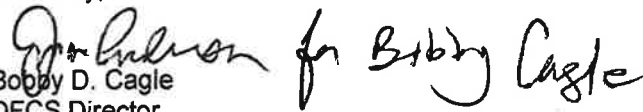
Dear Ms. Fouts,

The Georgia Food Stamp Employment and Training (E&T) Program is submitting a request to extend the ABAWD Waiver through December 31, 2018 in 66 of Georgia's 159 counties. Georgia will operate a voluntary E&T program in its 93 time limited counties. The State of Georgia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 66 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The national average 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 6.0 percent. The waiver is attached for your review.

Twenty-four counties became subject to the time limits in 2017 and will continue to be subject to the time limits in 2018. The twenty-four counties are: Banks, Barrow, Brooks, Catoosa, Clarke, Coweta, Dade, Fayette, Forsyth, Gordon, Heard, Jackson, Lowndes, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Troup Walker and Walton. The additional 69 counties that will be subject to the ABAWD time limits and will operate a voluntary E&T program beginning in January 2018 are: Baldwin, Bibb, Burke, Butts, Candler, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Cherokee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Dawson, Dougherty, Echols, Elbert, Emanuel, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Glascock, Grady, Greene, Habersham, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Lincoln, Lumpkin, McDuffie, Meriwether, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Putnam, Rabun, Richmond, Screven, Stephens, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Towns, Treutlen, Union, Warren, Washington, White, Whitfield, Wilkes and Worth.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver, please contact Tatrina Young, SNAP E&T Coordinator at (404) 463-0877. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Bobby D. Cagle
DFCS Director

Enclosures: GA 2018 ABAWD Waiver

cc: Jon M. Anderson, DFCS Chief Deputy Director
Ann Carter, OFI State Operations Director
Lucy Smith, OFI Field Operations Director
Mary Beth Lukich, Chief Information Officer
Melissa Belk, Quality Operations Director
Kimberlin Donald, SNAP Director
Tatrina Young, SNAP E&T Coordinator

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150036
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:** Georgia
6. **Region:** SERO
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 Georgia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 66 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 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 Georgia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 66 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The national average 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 6.0 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
February 2015 through January 2017**

Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Appling County, GA	14,670	215,980
Atkinson County, GA	5,188	95,064
Bacon County, GA	6,447	117,879
Baker County, GA	2,080	27,775
Ben Hill County, GA	11,428	133,765
Berrien County, GA	11,301	170,821
Bleckley County, GA	8,163	105,431
Brantley County, GA	11,882	169,472
Bryan County, GA	19,936	393,605
Bulloch County, GA	49,567	847,986
Calhoun County, GA	3,126	52,085
Camden County, GA	28,718	510,161
Charlton County, GA	6,922	114,733
Chatham County, GA	177,123	3,240,445
Clay County, GA	2,320	20,952
Clayton County, GA	216,861	3,080,656
Clinch County, GA	4,388	66,999
Coffee County, GA	26,556	426,428
Crawford County, GA	8,247	135,362
Crisp County, GA	14,291	223,962
Decatur County, GA	18,530	276,561
DeKalb County, GA	515,143	9,112,802
Dodge County, GA	13,090	166,945
Dooly County, GA	7,674	117,855
Douglas County, GA	97,889	1,667,639
Early County, GA	7,315	105,521
Effingham County, GA	32,837	662,331
Evans County, GA	5,974	114,240
Fulton County, GA	707,732	12,577,120
Glynn County, GA	51,903	922,740
Henry County, GA	148,353	2,565,729
Irwin County, GA	6,110	76,341
Jeff Davis County, GA	9,768	150,937
Lamar County, GA	13,111	187,043
Lanier County, GA	5,590	91,430
Laurens County, GA	32,066	451,507

Lee County, GA	17,114	341,823
Liberty County, GA	36,230	603,226
Long County, GA	9,707	171,912
Macon County, GA	9,699	111,675
Marion County, GA	6,520	82,577
Mcintosh County, GA	8,690	142,942
Miller County, GA	3,533	65,401
Peach County, GA	20,207	274,518
Pierce County, GA	11,376	197,484
Pulaski County, GA	6,066	97,860
Quitman County, GA	1,378	19,373
Randolph County, GA	5,144	58,818
Rockdale County, GA	62,722	1,031,807
Schley County, GA	3,289	50,463
Seminole County, GA	5,953	74,647
Spalding County, GA	48,550	660,218
Stewart County, GA	3,467	51,108
Sumter County, GA	24,461	306,429
Taylor County, GA	6,165	76,620
Telfair County, GA	9,927	115,031
Terrell County, GA	6,148	87,806
Turner County, GA	5,187	77,239
Twiggs County, GA	6,336	71,772
Upson County, GA	18,181	267,607
Ware County, GA	21,025	355,061
Wayne County, GA	19,138	276,359
Webster County, GA	2,133	23,193
Wheeler County, GA	4,020	40,954
Wilcox County, GA	4,947	67,087
Wilkinson County, GA	5,904	87,411
Combined Area Total	2,695,516	45,284,723
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

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):

The caseload for these areas, as of January 31, 2017, represent 46.77% 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:

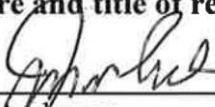
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

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:

15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Jon Anderson
DFCS Chief Deputy Director
Jon.Anderson@dhs.ga.gov

16. Date of request: July 12, 2017

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

Kimberlin Donald
SNAP Director
Kimberlin.Donald@dhs.ga.gov
(404) 657-3608

Tatrina Young
SNAP E&T Coordinator
Tatrina.Young@dhs.ga.gov
(404) 463-0877

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