



627 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(O) 225.342.0286
(F) 225.342.8636
www.dcfcs.la.gov

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

April 11, 2018

Mr. Dwight Crudup, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Southwest Regional Office
Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce Street, Room 522
Dallas, Texas 75242
Via Email: dwight.crudup@fns.usda.gov

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Statewide Waiver for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) – 7CFR 273.24(f)(2)

Dear Mr. Crudup,

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is requesting an extension of the statewide ABAWD waiver. Louisiana has an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2015 through November 2017. Louisiana's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.7 percent. Our current ABAWD waiver will expire on August 31, 2018. We are requesting an extension of this waiver until August 31, 2019.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Family Support at (225) 342-3961 or Sammy.Guillory.DCFS@LA.GOV.

Sincerely,



Marketa Garner Walters
Secretary

cc: The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor
Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Family Support



STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160020
2. **Type of request:** 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:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** SWRO
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 three months during any three-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 three-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 Louisiana is requesting a statewide waiver 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 Louisiana seeks a statewide waiver based on the State having an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2015 through November 2017. Louisiana's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.7 percent. The national average for this period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data December 2015 through November 2017		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Louisiana	2,901,859	50,695,429
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	
20% Above the National Average	5.6%	

- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will assist SNAP households who cannot find employment opportunities and it will provide consistency for state operations.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire state. As of March 2018, Louisiana's SNAP caseload was 406,465 households representing 874,803 recipients. The statewide error rate thru July 2017 is 1.49 percent.
- 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 quality control procedures involved.
- 14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Kim Matherne
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**



Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Email for transmission of response: Sammy.Guillory.DCFS@la.gov

- 16. Date of request:** April 11, 2018
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
Kim Matherne / Kim.Matherne.DCFS@la.gov / 225-219-2428
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**