

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2130035
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:** New Hampshire
6. **Region:** NERO
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 New Hampshire is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 14 towns 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 New Hampshire seeks a waiver for a regional group of 10 contiguous towns 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 24-month period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 6.1 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Cambridge township	0	72
Clarksville town	190	2,765
Columbia town	327	7,561
Dixville township	0	24
Dummer town	217	3,745
Errol town	273	4,016
Millsfield township	0	94
Stark town	285	5,196
Stratford town	413	6,161
Wentworth location	129	370
Combined Area Total	1,834	30,004
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.1%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

The State of New Hampshire also seeks a waiver for 3 towns in the Conway NH-ME Labor Market Area based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The Labor Market Area used in this waiver request is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹ The unemployment rate for the towns in the Conway NH-ME LMA for which New Hampshire is requesting the waiver was 6.0 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
Conway NH-ME LMA	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Chatham town	166	3,795
Hale's location	79	1,014
Hart's Location town	101	964
Combined Area Total	346	5,773
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	6.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

¹ Map available from the New Hampshire Employment Security
<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/tools/documents/nh-towns-lma.pdf>. Full listing of Labor Market Areas
available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics:
<http://www.bls.gov/lau/lmadir2015.xlsx>.

The State of New Hampshire seeks a waiver for Ellsworth town based on the town's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The town's average unemployment for this period was 6.7 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017			
Individual Town	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Ellsworth town	85	1,263	6.7%
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 August 2, 2017, represents .02% 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 October 1, 2017 through September 30, 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:

New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Family Assistance
Laurie A. Green

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

Terry R. Smith
Title: Director, Division of Family Assistance
Email for transmission of response: terry.smith@dhhs.nh.gov

16. Date of request: August 3, 2017

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

Laurie A. Green laurie.green@dhhs.nh.gov 603-271-9287

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