



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

October 30, 2017

Eric Ratchford, Regional Director
Food and Nutritional Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
US Department of Agriculture-MARO
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

Enclosed is a request to allow New Jersey to waive the ABAWD provision for select counties for the upcoming calendar year.

Based upon an analysis of Labor Market Data, New Jersey is seeking to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties for calendar year 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Braasch, Assistant Director, NJ SNAP/EBT, at (609) 588-2405.

Sincerely,

Natasha Johnson
Director

Enclosure

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2. Type of request:

2018 ABAWD Waiver

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

New Jersey

5. Region:

MARO

6. Regulatory requirements:

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), individuals are not 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 SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the time limit described above for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. Description of alternative procedures:

The State of New Jersey seeks to waive the application of the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) time limit provisions of 7 CFR 273.24 for Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties for calendar year 2018.

8. Justification for request:

According to SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if 12-month average unemployment exceeds 10 percent or if the 24-month labor market information reveals an unemployment rate which exceeds the national average by 20 percent. New Jersey seeks to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties for calendar year 2018. These counties meet the criteria in 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2).

The State of New Jersey seeks permission to waive Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties. The national average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of July 2015 through June 2017 was 4.8 percent; 20 percent above this is 5.8 percent. The unemployment rates for the same period for requested areas are: Atlantic – 7.5%; Cape May – 9.6%; and Cumberland – 7.3%.

July 2015 – June 2017			
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Atlantic County, NJ	223,205	2,983,965	7.5%
Cape May County, NJ	108,617	1,136,074	9.6%
Cumberland County, NJ	118,397	1,614,798	7.3%
Combined Unemployment Rate	7.9%		
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.8%		

9. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide relief to ABAWD individuals who are residing in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties which meet the labor market qualifications to be granted a waiver of the ABAWD provisions.

10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseloads for these areas, as of August 2017, represent 9.2% of the overall SNAP caseload, and 14.8% of the ABAWD population for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a waiver from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 for the identified counties.

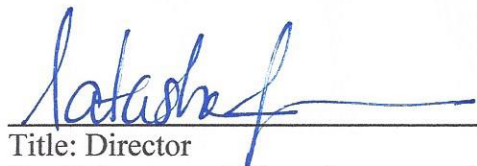
12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Family Development
Natasha Johnson
Director

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Director

Email for transmission of response: Natasha.johnson@dhs.state.nj.us

15. Date of request: October 30, 2017

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

Larry Braasch

Assistant Division Director

Larry.braasch@dhs.state.nj.us

(609) 588-2405

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