

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160027
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **State:** New Mexico
5. **Region:** SWRO
6. **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.
7. **Proposed alternative procedures:**

New Mexico is requesting an extension of the 3 month ABAWD time limit to exempt ABAWDs state-wide.
8. **Justification for request:**

While New Mexico sees value in helping recipients attain and retain employment, the Department is focused on existing compliance activities in the SNAP program. In addition, the state unemployment rate is currently well above the standard for waiving ABAWD requirements.

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.

New Mexico requests a statewide waiver extension based on the state's cumulative unemployment rate for the 24-month period of July 2015 through June 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.8 percent; 20

percent above this was 5.8 percent. The State's average unemployment rate for this period was 6.6 percent.

9. Caseload information, including percent of caseload and description of population expected to be affected by this waiver:

As of June 2017, New Mexico's SNAP caseload consisted of 217,110 households which comprises 259,292 adults and 193,237 children for a total of 455,529 recipients. This waiver would impact those SNAP recipients who are able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) whose population is estimated at 26,000 individuals.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

In addition to maintaining access to SNAP benefits for the ABAWD population, extension of this waiver will provide state-wide consistency for all SNAP households and in the date-to-day operation and administration of SNAP.

11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed (please indicate if the waiver approval is needed to make system adjustments):

Upon expiration of the current waiver on February 28, 2018, this extension would be implemented on March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.

12. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

13. Name, title, and email of requesting official:

Name: Vida Tapia-Sanchez

Title: Deputy Director

Email: vida.tapia-sanchez@state.nm.us

14. Date of request: September 19, 2017

15. State agency staff contact:

Name: Vida Tapia-Sanchez

Title: Deputy Director

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

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Original Data Value

Not Seasonally

Adjusted

24 Month Average	NM Labor Force Data 12 mos.	NM Unemployment Data 12 mos.	NM Unemployment Rate
2015 Jul	928114	66661	7.2
2015 Aug	922971	61690	6.7
2015 Sep	918593	58628	6.4
2015 Oct	926403	58646	6.3
2015 Nov	928349	59038	6.4
2015 Dec	926662	57862	6.2
2016 Jan	921162	62184	6.8
2016 Feb	926499	62267	6.7
2016 Mar	922098	60404	6.6
2016 Apr	921721	57581	6.2
2016 May	919658	58612	6.4
2016 Jun	932354	70024	7.5
2016 Jul	932188	69792	7.5
2016 Aug	928217	66051	7.1
2016 Sep	925371	62481	6.8
2016 Oct	929347	61112	6.6
2016 Nov	935046	60388	6.5
2016 Dec	934596	58415	6.3
2017 Jan	929961	64824	7.0
2017 Feb	933311	64637	6.9
2017 Mar	931569	61684	6.6
2017 Apr	931908	57984	6.2
2017 May	927379	56803	6.1
2017 Jun	938625	63318	6.7
Totals:	22272102	1481086	6.6

Unemployment / Labor Force = Quotient (drop 5th + following decimal) x 100 = Unemployment Rate				
1481086 / 22272102 = 0.0664 x 100 = 6.6%				

National Average for this timeframe is 4.8%; 20% above this national average is 5.8% .

<https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet>