

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):

2030035

2. Type of request:

Modification

3. Regulatory citation:

7 CFR 273.24

4. State:

Pennsylvania

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 three months during any three 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:

- 8.** The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 59 counties and 10 cities and 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 qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that states may define areas to be waived.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for one area of contiguous counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of August 2015 through July 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.8 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.7 percent. The unemployment rate for this area was also 5.7 percent for this period.

August 2015-July 2017

County	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployment
Adams	1,329,863	51,851
Armstrong	796,233	56,467
Beaver	2,058,237	123,916
Bedford	577,012	32,930
Blair	1,459,953	75,120
Bradford	726,488	44,345
Bucks	8,202,123	368,442
Butler	2,358,739	115,803
Cambria	1,474,058	96,708
Cameron	53,483	3,935
Carbon	759,761	44,413
Clarion	433,552	26,588
Clearfield	869,488	59,817
Clinton	447,349	30,326
Columbia	811,368	44,405
Crawford	981,798	55,637
Dauphin	3,423,238	158,878
Delaware	7,073,769	336,516
Elk	390,725	20,661
Erie	3,211,506	196,765
Fayette	1,403,857	108,390
Forest	45,086	3,407
Franklin	1,862,069	91,805
Fulton	174,959	10,571
Greene	420,067	29,423
Huntingdon	471,089	31,841
Indiana	968,924	65,914
Jefferson	496,214	32,298
Juniata	291,017	14,836
Lackawanna	2,554,058	141,230
Lawrence	996,391	65,048
Lebanon	1,693,508	73,551
Lehigh	4,493,509	236,244
Luzerne	3,813,692	237,757
Lycoming	1,412,475	89,528
McKean	447,439	28,718
Mercer	1,263,926	72,768
Mifflin	499,863	28,012
Monroe	1,959,942	121,122
Montour	220,057	9,153
Northampton	3,784,525	193,583
Northumberland	1,049,962	64,224
Perry	584,504	25,975
Philadelphia	16,939,273	1,121,942
Pike	599,629	37,604

Potter	177,554	13,193
Schuylkill	1,623,674	99,210
Snyder	491,431	22,618
Somerset	818,485	56,328
Sullivan	69,389	4,660
Susquehanna	502,459	27,333
Tioga	478,204	32,260
Union	472,293	21,780
Venango	568,346	38,885
Warren	472,577	25,099
Washington	2,566,447	150,346
Wayne	536,430	30,128
Westmoreland	4,399,073	246,541
Wyoming	339,030	20,130
Total for Region	99,400,080	5,666,988
Unemployment Rate	5.7	

Pennsylvania also identified 3 minor civil divisions (MCD) that are eligible for a waiver based on their own unemployment rate that was 20% above the national average 24-month period of August 2015 through July 2017.

August 2015 - July 2017			
INDIVIDUAL MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Lancaster City	649,652	38,517	5.9
Penn Hills Township	536,151	30,964	5.8
Pottstown Borough	284,063	16,254	5.7

Additionally, three (3) MCD that qualified on their own unemployment rates, had contiguous areas whose combined unemployment rates qualified for waivers.

August 2015 - July 2017		
COMBINED MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS	Total Labor Force	Total Unemployment
York city	429,711	36,670
York Township	358,015	14,943
Springettsbury Township	313,945	14,986
TOTAL MCD AREA	1,101,671	66,599
Unemployment rate for area	6.0	
Reading city	821,403	60,263
Muhlenberg Township	265,757	12,068
TOTAL MCD AREA	1,087,160	72,331
Unemployment rate for area	6.7	

West Mifflin Borough	242,354	14,131
McKeesport City	192,465	14,952
TOTAL MCD AREA	434,819	29,083
Unemployment rate for area		6.7

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 represents approximately 85 percent 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:

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

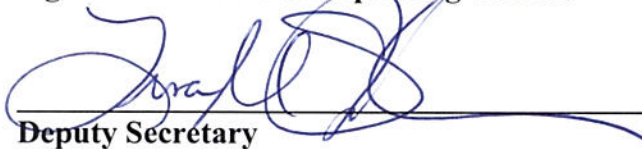
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

14. State agency submitting waiver request and state contact person:

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Office of Income Maintenance
Lisa Watson
Deputy Secretary

15. Signature and title of requesting official:


Deputy Secretary

16. Date of request: 10/18/17

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

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