

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150035
2. **Type of request:** Modification 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:** Rhode Island
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 Rhode Island is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 26 cities and towns.

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 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 Rhode Island seeks a waiver for a regional group of 23 cities and towns in the Providence-Warwick New England City and Town Area (NECTA) based on the region having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average 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 national average for this period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The average unemployment rate for this region was 6.0 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA NECTA, RI part	Unemployed	Labor force
Bristol town	14,746	290,398
Burrillville town	11,793	213,923
Central Falls city	14,420	205,096
Charlestown town	5,873	97,808
Coventry town	23,795	449,582
Cranston city	54,399	988,643
East Greenwich town	8,036	163,901
East Providence city	34,519	581,466
Foster town	3,514	69,280
Johnston town	21,986	375,041
Middletown town	9,381	190,261
North Providence town	24,204	430,753
Pawtucket city	55,197	869,308
Portsmouth town	10,689	211,197
Providence city	139,637	2,070,714
Scituate town	7,751	147,447
Smithfield town	13,576	271,242
South Kingstown town	20,047	396,591
Tiverton town	11,050	209,055
Warren town	7,583	136,651
West Greenwich town	3,883	76,367
West Warwick town	22,605	385,992
Woonsocket city	34,060	457,954
Total for Region	552,744	9,288,670
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.0%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

¹ A map of the Labor Market Area is available from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/maps/necta.htm>. The full listing of Labor Market Areas is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lmadir2015.xlsx>.

The State of Rhode Island seeks a waiver for a regional group of 2 cities and towns in the Norwich-New London-Westerly NECTA Labor Market Area based on the region having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The national average for this period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The average unemployment rate for this region was 6.4 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017		
Norwich-New London-Westerly, CT-RI NECTA	Unemployed	Labor force
Hopkinton town	6,078	112,922
Westerly town	18,370	272,064
Total for Region	24,448	384,986
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	6.4%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	6.0%	

The State of Rhode Island seeks a waiver for New Shoreham town based on the town having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2015 through January 2017. The national average for this period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.0 percent. The average unemployment rate for this region was 11.7 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2015 through January 2017			
Individual Town	Unemployed	Labor force	Unemployment Rate
New Shoreham town	2,283	19,488	11.7%
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 3/20/18, represent 85% 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 September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

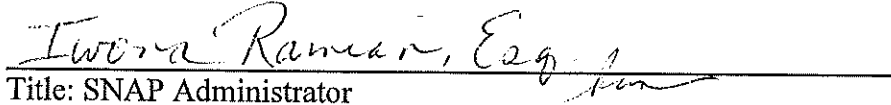
There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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

RI Department of Human Services

Iwona Ramian, Esquire

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: SNAP Administrator

Email for transmission of response: iwona.ramian@dhs.ri.gov

Phone: 401-415-8433

16. Date of request: 3/20/18

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

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