

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 990047
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:** South Dakota
6. **Region:** MPRO
7. **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.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of South Dakota is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 15 counties and 7 reservations 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. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii) also specifies that states can request a waiver for areas that can show “low and declining employment-to-population ratios” as evidence of insufficient jobs.

The State of South Dakota seeks a waiver for a region of 15 contiguous counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of April 2015 through March 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.9 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 5.9 percent for the same period.

April 2015 – March 2017		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Bennett County, SD	1,099	27,318
Buffalo County, SD	1,278	17,312
Campbell County, SD	568	20,605
Corson County, SD	1,571	35,604
Dewey County, SD	5,109	54,248
Hyde County, SD	456	17,135
Jackson County, SD	1,329	31,780
Jones County, SD	347	13,883
Lyman County, SD	1,897	42,843
Mellette County, SD	783	18,763
Oglala Lakota County, SD	9,083	87,038
Stanley County, SD	1,093	44,684
Todd County, SD	4,659	73,140
Walworth County, SD	2,585	53,645
Ziebach County, SD	1,039	23,621
Total for Region	32,896	561,619
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	5.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%	

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2015 American Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level BLS data from May 2015 – April 2017. The following table summarizes the calculations:

May 2015 through April 2017			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Dewey County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	5,032	54,012	9.3%

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Haakon County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	-	-
Meade County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	-	-
Stanley County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	-	-
Sully County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	-	-
Ziebach County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	1,028	23,613	4.4%
Total Cheyenne River Reservation	6,060	77,625	7.8%
Buffalo County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	1,269	15,429	8.2%
Hughes County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	541	1,943	27.8%
Hyde County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	0	197	0.0%
Total Crow Creek Reservation	1,810	17,568	10.3%
Moody County (part); South Dakota (part); Flandreau Reservation, SD	391	4,294	9.1%
Total Flandreau Reservation	391	4,294	9.1%
Lyman County (part); South Dakota (part); Lower Brule Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	1,419	12,954	11.0%
Stanley County (part); South Dakota (part); Lower Brule Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	182	0.0%
Total Lower Brule Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land	1,419	12,954	11.0%
Bennett County; South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	1,082	27,298	4.0%
Jackson County (part); South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	1,069	15,254	7.0%
Oglala Lakota County; South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	9,036	87,064	10.4%
Total Pine Ridge Reservation	11,187	129,616	8.6%

Gregory County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	121	0.0%
Lyman County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	-	#DIV/0!
Mellette County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	577	5,813	9.9%
Todd County; South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	4,600	73,089	6.3%
Tripp County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	0	3,434	0.0%
Total Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	5,177	82,457	6.3%

The State is requesting to waive individuals in Yankton Reservation based on having a low and declining employment to population ratio. This ratio was calculated by dividing the estimated employed population over the estimated population age 16+. The employed population was estimated by applying shares from the 2011-2015 5-year ACS to county-level annual employment averages from the BLS. The estimated population for the reservations was calculated by applying reservation county shares for the population ages 16 and up from the 2011-2015 5-year ACS to annual county population estimates for the population 16 and up from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Yankton Reservation had an employment to population ratio that declined between 2012 and 2016, while that of the U.S. increased slightly. Its ratio was lower than that of South Dakota each year between 2012 and 2016.²

<u>Areas in South Dakota that are Eligible for a Waiver Based on Having a Low and Declining Employment-Population Ratio from 2012 to 2016</u>						
	Annual Average Employment-Population Ratios					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percentage Point Difference, 2012 to 2016
United States	57.3%	57.3%	57.8%	58.2%	58.7%	1.4%
South Dakota	65.1%	65.0%	65.1%	65.4%	65.3%	0.2%
Yankton Reservation	53.2%	52.8%	53.4%	52.7%	51.6%	-1.6%

² The ratios for the South Dakota and the U.S. were both computed using the same method—dividing annual employment figures from the BLS by annual population estimates of the population ages 16 and up from the Census Bureau’s population estimates.

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 **05/31/2017**, represents **28.6%** 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:

South Dakota

Virginia Hanson, Program Specialist II

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Amanda Doherty-Karber, SNAP Administrator

Email for transmission of response: amanda.dohertykarber@state.sd.us

16. Date of request: 06/30/17

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

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