

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2140016
2. **Type of request:** Extension and amendment
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:** Virginia
6. **Region:** MARO
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 Virginia is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 55 counties and cities 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 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.

The State of Virginia seeks a waiver for a regional group of 54 counties and cities in the Southern Region based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. While most of the localities in the southern part of the state have contiguous borders, others do not but these areas contribute to the overall economic health of the region. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period was also 5.5 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
January 2016 through December 2017**

Southern Region	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Accomack County	18,298	378,909
Alleghany County	8,219	165,452
Bath County	2,098	59,431
Bland County	3,170	65,856
Bristol city	8,694	180,579
Brunswick County	8,572	148,158
Buchanan County	15,045	161,063
Buckingham County	8,172	152,564
Carroll County	15,246	309,564
Charles City County	4,207	90,329
Charlotte County	6,181	125,491
Covington city	3,443	57,252
Craig County	2,541	57,245
Cumberland County	4,880	110,872
Danville city	27,512	459,780
Dickenson County	9,282	106,548
Dinwiddie County	15,054	323,829
Emporia city	3,246	53,975
Franklin city	4,832	84,643
Galax city	3,311	69,453
Grayson County	8,294	170,230
Greensville County	4,979	101,653
Halifax County	19,737	357,069
Hampton city	82,930	1,544,565
Henry County	28,233	531,541
Highland County	1,010	30,441
Hopewell city	14,766	234,969
Lancaster County	6,821	122,761
Lee County	12,489	200,679
Lunenburg County	5,617	125,544
Martinsville city	8,711	124,014
Mecklenburg County	16,085	296,886
Northampton County	7,840	138,365
Northumberland County	7,034	130,253
Norton city	2,418	39,130

Patrick County	8,716	189,654
Petersburg city	24,243	327,667
Pittsylvania County	32,875	710,603
Portsmouth city	61,326	1,065,812
Prince Edward County	12,678	244,110
Prince George County	16,761	364,411
Pulaski County	21,882	399,231
Richmond County	3,542	93,946
Russell County	16,018	267,667
Scott County	10,106	227,280
Smyth County	18,032	327,007
Surry County	4,320	88,031
Sussex County	5,800	96,789
Tazewell County	25,935	380,278
Washington County	27,824	648,096
Westmoreland County	10,009	215,159
Williamsburg city	8,766	159,630
Wise County	23,997	309,819
Wythe County	17,797	327,592
Combined Area Total	749,594	13,751,875
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%	

The State of Virginia also seeks a waiver for Page County based on its average unemployment rate 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. Page County's average unemployment rate for this period was also 5.7 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data August 2015 through July 2017			
Individual County	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Page County	15,772	277,497	5.7%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.7%		

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 affected portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of January 31, 2018, represent 31% 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:

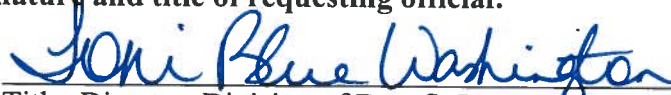
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

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: Nikole Cox

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Director, Division of Benefit Programs

Email for transmission of response: toni.washington@dss.virginia.gov

16. Date of request: February 13, 2018

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Nikole Cox at nikole.cox@dss.virginia.gov; (804) 726-7270

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

