



Mr. Eric Ratchford
Regional Director
USDA/FNS/MARO
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

APR 9 2018

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

The District of Columbia currently has a waiver to suspend time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) throughout the District through December 31, 2018. Please accept this letter as notification of the District of Columbia's request to extend the suspension of time limits for ABAWDS throughout the District through December 31, 2019. The supporting documentation and waiver application is attached.

If you have any questions, please call me on 202-698-3906.

Sincerely,

Anthea Seymour
Administrator

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** 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:** District of Columbia
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 District of Columbia is requesting waiver for the entire District from SNAP time limit 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.

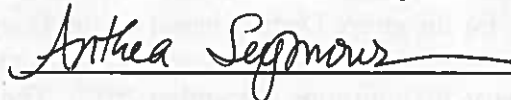
The District of Columbia seeks a waiver for the entire District based on the District having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. The District's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.1 percent. The national average for this period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017		
	Unemployed	Labor force
District of Columbia	579,905	9,545,757
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	5.5%	

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire District.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The District is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Anthea Seymour
 Administrator
 Economic Security Administration
 Department of Human Services
 64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
 Washington, DC 20002
 (202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

15. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



Title: Administrator, Economic Security Administration, Department of Human Services
 Email for transmission of response: Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

16. **Date of request:**

April 10, 2018

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

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

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

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
JAN 2016 - DEC 2017
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 24-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 24-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2 JAN 2016 - DEC 2017	from Step 4 JAN 2016 - DEC 2017	Step 5 JAN 2016 - DEC 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Step 6 JAN 2016 - DEC 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Step 7 JAN 2016 - DEC 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
District of Columbia	Total labor force 9,545,757	Total number of unemployed 579,905	0.06075	0.0607	6.07
National Unemployment Threshold - 20% Above the National Average	3,834,083	176,799	0.04611	0.0461	4.61
				0.0553	5.53
					4.6
					5.5

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey
Original Data Value

Series id: LNU01000000, LNU03000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level, (Unadj) Unemployment Level

Labor force Civilian labor force, Unemployed

Type of measure Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

Years: 2016 to 2018

Year	Month	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment rate
2016	Jan	157347	8309	5.3
2016	Feb	158279	8219	5.2
2016	Mar	158854	8116	5.1
2016	Apr	158488	7413	4.7
2016	May	158800	7207	4.5
2016	Jun	160135	8144	5.1
2016	Jul	160705	8267	5.1
2016	Aug	159800	7996	5.0
2016	Sep	159636	7658	4.8
2016	Oct	159783	7447	4.7
2016	Nov	159451	7066	4.4
2016	Dec	158968	7170	4.5
2017	Jan	158676	8149	5.1
2017	Feb	159482	7887	4.9
2017	Mar	159912	7284	4.6
2017	Apr	159817	6555	4.1
2017	May	159979	6572	4.1
2017	Jun	161337	7250	4.5
2017	Jul	161911	7441	4.6
2017	Aug	160863	7287	4.5
2017	Sep	161049	6556	4.1
2017	Oct	160465	6242	3.9
2017	Nov	160466	6286	3.9
2017	Dec	159880	6278	3.9
2018	Jan	160037	7189	4.5
2018	Feb	161494	7091	4.4

National 24-Month Unemployment Average

Start date	End date	Civilian labor force	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (Rounded)	20% Above the National Average (Rounded)
Jan-16	Dec-17	3,834,083	176,799	4.6	5.5
Feb-16	Jan-18	3,836,773	175,679	4.6	5.5

Local Area Unemployment Statistics
Original Data Value

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Series Id: LAUST11000000000003,LAUST11000000000005,LAUST11000000000006
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Area: District of Columbia
Area Type: Statewide
State/Region/ District of Columbia
Years: 2016 to 2018

Year	Period	labor force	unemployment	unemployment rate
2016	Jan	391016	25676	6.6
2016	Feb	393820	25665	6.5
2016	Mar	392744	23871	6.1
2016	Apr	393199	21567	5.5
2016	May	391505	21803	5.6
2016	Jun	396911	25367	6.4
2016	Jul	400471	25892	6.5
2016	Aug	393954	24992	6.3
2016	Sep	393666	24616	6.3
2016	Oct	396157	23913	6.0
2016	Nov	396430	22996	5.8
2016	Dec	395158	22418	5.7
2017	Jan	397637	24698	6.2
2017	Feb	400242	25054	6.3
2017	Mar	399738	23776	5.9
2017	Apr	399234	22272	5.6
2017	May	398908	23115	5.8
2017	Jun	404318	26479	6.5
2017	Jul	407291	26933	6.6
2017	Aug	400601	25560	6.4
2017	Sep	399944	25089	6.3
2017	Oct	401245	23895	6.0
2017	Nov	401397	22642	5.6
2017	Dec	400171	21616	5.4
2018	Jan	401782	22234	5.5
2018	Feb	406452	23039	5.7

State unemployment rate over most recent 24-month period
Threshold: >=national *1.20%, 24 months

Start date	End date	labor force	Unemplo yment	Unemployment Rate Rounded	20% Above the National Average Rounded	At or above 20% of national
Jan-16	Dec-17	9,545,757	579,905	6.1	5.5 Y	
Jan-16	Dec-17	9,556,523	576,463	6.0	5.5 Y	