

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2160020
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:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** SWRO
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 Louisiana is requesting a statewide waiver 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 Louisiana seeks a statewide waiver based on the State having an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2017 through December 2018. Louisiana's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.0 percent. The national average for this period was 4.1 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2017 through December 2018		
	Unemployed	Labor force
Louisiana	2,524,769	50,485,579
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	
20% Above the National Average	4.9%	

- 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 state. As of January 2019, Louisiana's SNAP caseload was 382,782 households representing 822,565 recipients. The statewide error rate thru September 2018 is 2.32%.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
- 14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Kim Matherne
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

 Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Email for transmission of response: Sammy.Guillory.DCFS@LA.GOV
- 16. Date of request:** March 14, 2019
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**
 Kim Matherne/ Kim.Matherne.DCFS@LA.GOV / 225-219-2428
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**