

Waiver Request

1. Waiver serial number: TBD

2. Type of request: ABAWD Geographic Waiver Request

3. Primary regulation citation: 7 CFR § 273.24

4. Secondary regulation citation: N/A

5. State: Maine

6. Region: NERO

7. Regulatory requirements: 7 CFR § 273.24 provides that an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) is subject to a maximum of three months (consecutive or otherwise) of benefits over a 36-month period, unless the individual worked 20 hours or more per week (averaged monthly) or participated in and complied with requirements of a work program under 7 CFR § 273.24(a)(3) or 7 CFR § 273.24(a)(4). Individuals can qualify for an exception to this time limit under 7 CFR § 273.24(c).

8. Proposed alternative procedures: This request proposes to waive the three-month time limit for residents of geographic areas in Maine that meet certain requirements outlined in 7 CFR § 273.24(f). If the request is granted, Maine's Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) would be programmed to not impose the three-month limit for ABAWDs residing in these areas for the duration of the waiver.

9. Justification for request: The attached Excel spreadsheet and map were provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. We are requesting this waiver be applied to 247 towns, based on unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for various recent 24-month periods. Please see the "Summary" tab of the spreadsheet for the list of towns. The map shows the eligible areas and the basis of their eligibility for this waiver. ABAWDs residing in these areas would be exempt from the three-month time limit. Waiving this time limit would allow the State of Maine to realize administrative efficiencies while reducing churn and helping to extend the time by which our ABAWD population in high-need, low-employment areas can receive assistance as they seek employment.

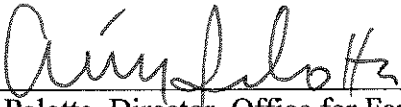
10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations: In the towns for which Maine is requesting a waiver, there are approximately 2,126 ABAWDs. An estimated 1,233 of these individuals are no longer receiving Food Supplement Benefits due to the three-month time limit over the 36-month period that began October 1, 2017. Those individuals would potentially be eligible to begin receiving benefits again, while the remaining estimated 893 ABAWDs would no longer be subject to the limit. Regarding the impact on State agency operations, we anticipate reduced administrative burden due to a waiver of the time limit, but also anticipate increased caseload.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion: This proposed waiver would be for the Food Supplement population described above. However, SNAP-QCS is not able to determine the payment error rate (PER) for this subset. Maine's reported PER for FFY 2018 was 11.63 percent.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period: If approved, the waiver would be implemented as soon as possible. Changes to Maine's Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) and Business Rules Engine (BRE) will be required prior to implementation. Due to the scope of the ACES and BRE changes necessary for implementation, Maine requests that this waiver be approved for a period of two years.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures: There will not be changes to quality control review procedures. Quality control reviews will continue to be conducted in accordance with the FNS Handbook 310.

14. Signature and Date:



Anthony Pelotte, Director, Office for Family Independence
Department of Health and Human Services

5/30/19

Date