

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

- 1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2130035
- 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:** New Hampshire
- 6. Region:** NERO
- 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 New Hampshire is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 16 towns 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 New Hampshire seeks a waiver for the town of Webster based on its average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of April 2016 – March 2018. The town's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.7 percent. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.4 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2016 – March 2018			
Town	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Webster town	15	262	5.7%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.4%		

The State also seeks a waiver for a regional group of 10 contiguous towns with populations below 1,000 based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. 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 aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 5.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017		
Contiguous Towns	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Cambridge township	-	72
Clarksville town	173	2,703
Columbia town	316	7,411
Dixville township	-	24
Dummer town	178	3,701
Errol town	242	3,924
Millsfield township	-	92
Stark town	236	5,139
Stratford town	353	6,091
Wentworth location	125	364
Combined Area Total	1,623	29,521
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%	

The State seeks a waiver for four towns in the Conway NH-ME Labor Market Area based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. The Labor Market Area used in this waiver request is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹ The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 5.9 percent.

¹ Map available from the New Hampshire Employment Security
<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/tools/documents/nh-towns-lma.pdf>.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017		
Conway NH-ME LMA	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Chatham town	146	3,758
Hale's location	97	1,026
Hart's Location town	106	971
Pinkhams grant	-	142
Combined Area Total	349	5,897
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%	

The State seeks a waiver for Ellsworth town based on the town's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. The town's average unemployment for this period was 6.1 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017			
Individual Town	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Ellsworth town	77	1,257	6.1%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%		

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 July 31, 2018, represent .015% 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, 2018 through September 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:

New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Family Assistance
Laurie A. Green, SNAP Program Manager

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Administrator III

Email for transmission of response:

16. Date of request: August 13, 2018

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

Laurie A. Green/ laurie.green@dhhs.nh.gov/603-271-9287

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

McConnell, Casey - FNS

From: Soukhanov, Beth - FNS
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 6:41 AM
To: Dasgupta, Arpan - FNS; McConnell, Casey - FNS
Cc: Henschel, Matthew - FNS; Pasquaretta, Kevin; D'Auria, Michelle - FNS
Subject: FW: 2019 ABAWD Waiver

Good Morning Arpan and Casey,

I am forwarding NH's email requesting that the town of Webster be removed from their ABAWD waiver request.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any further documentation.

Thanks,
Beth

From: Green, Laurie
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 5:38 PM
To: NE SNAP Division - FNS
Cc: Soukhanov, Beth - FNS
Subject: 2019 ABAWD Waiver

Hello-

I am the SNAP Program Manager for New Hampshire. The State submitted an ABAWD work requirement exemption waiver request to you on Monday August 13, 2018. Since that time, I have discovered an error in the calculations for the town of Webster. As a result of this error, I would request that you remove the town of Webster from consideration in this waiver.

I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

Thank you.

Laurie A. Green, Esq.
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