

## **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.

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

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.

| <b>Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br/>January 2016 through December 2017</b> |                         |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Contiguous Towns</b>                                                                               | <b>Unemployed Total</b> | <b>Labor Force Total</b> |
| 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                      |
| <b>Combined Area Total</b>                                                                            | <b>1,623</b>            | <b>29,521</b>            |
| <b>Combined Area<br/>Unemployment Rate</b>                                                            | <b>5.5%</b>             |                          |
| <b>20% Above National<br/>Average Threshold</b>                                                       | <b>5.5%</b>             |                          |

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.<sup>1</sup> The combined average unemployment rate for these towns in this Labor Market Area was 5.9 percent.

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

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

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.

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

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*):**