

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 970028
2. **Type of request:** Amendment
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 Jersey
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 State of New Jersey is requesting to exempt ABAWDs in 13 counties 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 Jersey seeks a waiver for a regional group of 5 counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of September 2016 through August 2018. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.1 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.2 percent.

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 affected portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of August 2018, represent 62% 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 January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

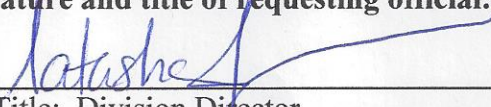
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development
Natasha Johnson, Division Director

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Division Director
Email for transmission of response: Natasha.johnson@dhs.state.nj.us

16. Date of request:

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

Larry Braasch, Assistant Division Director
Larry.braasch@dhs.state.nj.us
(609) 588-2405

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

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
September 2016 through August 2018**

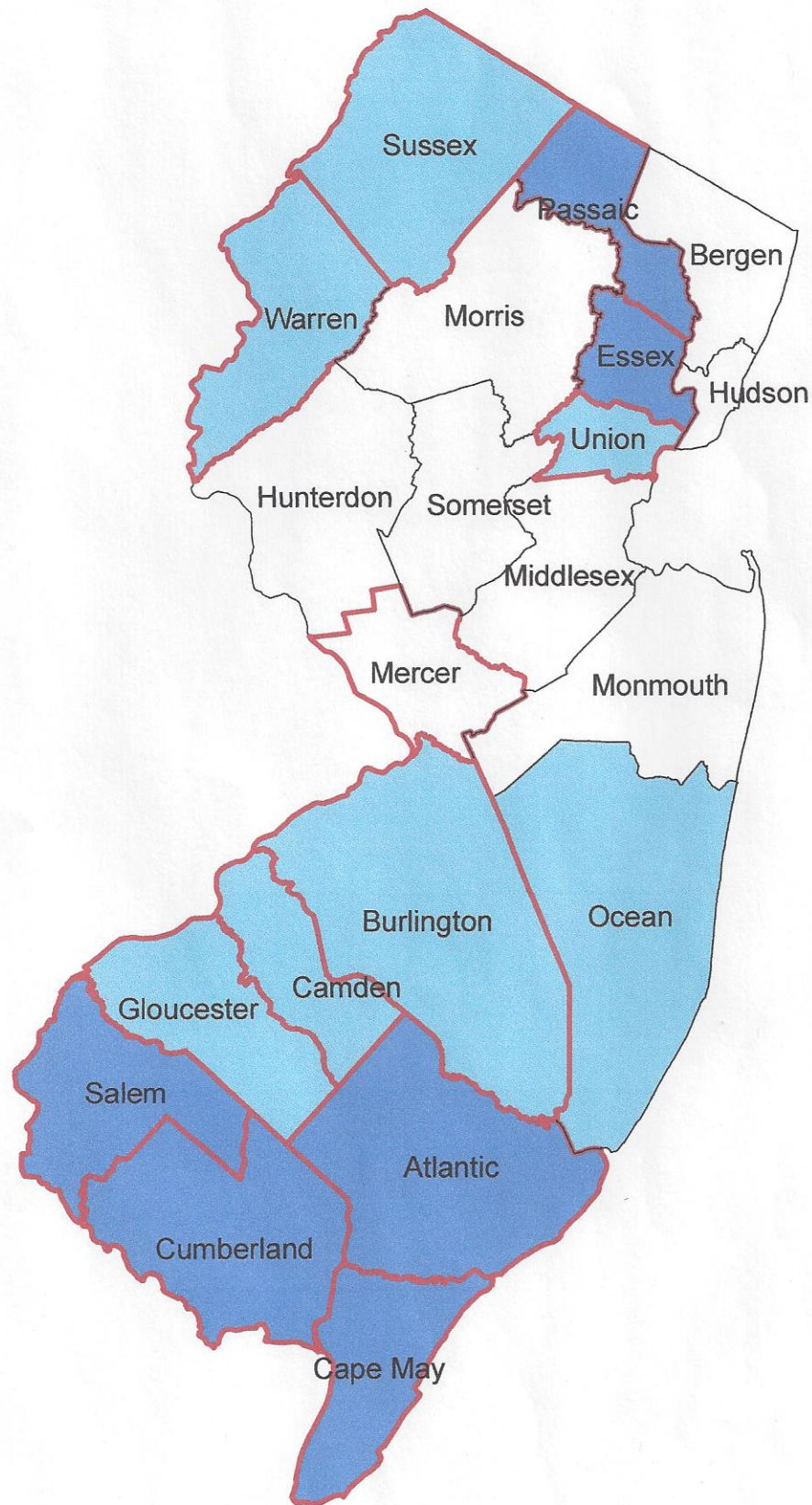
Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Essex County	496,360	8,857,479
Passaic County	328,725	5,869,124
Sussex County	77,598	1,799,028
Union County	312,954	6,623,297
Warren County	56,147	1,356,381
Combined Area Total	1,271,784	24,505,309
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.1%	

The State of New Jersey seeks a waiver for another regional group of 8 counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of September 2016 through August 2018. The region's average unemployment rate for this period was 5.2 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data
September 2016 through August 2018**

Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Atlantic County, NJ	200,682	2,917,365
Burlington County, NJ	227,044	5,616,302
Camden County, NJ	308,901	6,161,238
Cape May County, NJ	102,097	1,129,567
Cumberland County, NJ	109,756	1,590,357
Gloucester County, NJ	167,911	3,633,845
Ocean County, NJ	308,026	6,496,064
Salem County, NJ	42,711	715,609
Combined Area Total	1,467,128	28,260,347
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.2%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.1%	

New Jersey is Requesting a Waiver for 13 Counties in 2019



Counties

- Eligible based on own 24-month average unemployment rate (6)
- Eligible based on regional grouping (7)
- Waived in 2018 (13)