

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2150045
2. **Type of request:** Amendment and extension
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Pennsylvania
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic
6. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide 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.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of the State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of time limit described above for any group of individuals in the state if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:**
8. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 63 counties and 2 cities and 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 qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that states may define areas to be waived.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks a waiver for one area of contiguous counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of March 2016 through February 2018. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.4 percent. The unemployment rate for this area was also 5.4 percent for this period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data March 2016 through February 2018		
County Group	Unemployed	Labor Force
1. Adams County	50,597	1,330,853
2. Allegheny County	765,595	15,512,795
3. Armstrong County	52,797	787,852
4. Beaver County	118,564	2,041,081
5. Bedford County	31,315	572,441
6. Berks County	243,736	5,100,022
7. Blair County	72,737	1,449,419
8. Bradford County	40,640	711,496
9. Bucks County	360,681	8,188,486

10. Butler County	113,518	2,361,941
11. Cambria County	91,933	1,447,985
12. Cameron County	3,753	52,970
13. Carbon County	43,561	756,874
14. Clarion County	25,042	427,685
15. Clearfield County	56,091	863,793
16. Clinton County	29,035	441,420
17. Columbia County	43,808	811,549
18. Crawford County	55,009	954,866
19. Cumberland County	122,620	3,120,114
20. Dauphin County	157,986	3,408,448
21. Delaware County	330,644	7,069,954
22. Elk County	19,842	386,792
23. Erie County	193,266	3,162,747
24. Fayette County	103,445	1,393,186
25. Forest County	3,213	44,486
26. Franklin County	87,646	1,847,159
27. Fulton County	9,756	173,366
28. Greene County	27,283	407,990
29. Huntingdon County	30,513	472,967
30. Indiana County	61,714	949,138
31. Jefferson County	30,160	494,404
32. Juniata County	14,718	295,500
33. Lackawanna County	136,833	2,555,824
34. Lawrence County	62,719	982,684
35. Lebanon County	72,699	1,693,030
36. Lehigh County	234,858	4,534,596
37. Luzerne County	231,438	3,803,212
38. Lycoming County	84,434	1,390,663
39. McKean County	27,866	438,040
40. Mercer County	70,685	1,237,349
41. Mifflin County	27,348	496,323
42. Monroe County	119,159	1,966,638
43. Montour County	8,851	218,356
44. Northampton County	191,796	3,811,718
45. Northumberland County	62,609	1,051,194
46. Perry County	25,902	581,885
47. Philadelphia County	1,093,250	16,898,205
48. Pike County	36,649	596,631
49. Potter County	12,367	174,761
50. Schuylkill County	96,172	1,601,289
51. Snyder County	22,395	492,476
52. Somerset County	52,973	810,728
53. Sullivan County	4,289	67,503
54. Susquehanna County	25,383	497,198
55. Tioga County	30,297	466,363
56. Union County	21,670	475,403
57. Venango County	37,040	558,890
58. Warren County	25,196	467,802

59. Washington County	143,591	2,562,163
60. Wayne County	29,121	540,949
61. Westmoreland County	239,414	4,372,654
62. Wyoming County	18,866	335,988
63. York County	252,172	5,629,308
Combined Area Totals	6,889,260	128,349,602
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	5.4%	

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Pennsylvania also identified 2 minor civil divisions that are eligible for waivers based on their own unemployment rate that was 20% above the national average for the 24-month period from March 2016 through February 2018.

Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, PA Dept. L&I Data March 2016 through February 2018			
Minor Civil Division	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Lancaster City	37,836	646,273	5.9%
Pottstown Boro	15,928	283,946	5.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor; Center for Workforce Information and Analysis

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 represents approximately 95 percent 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:

Pennsylvania is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

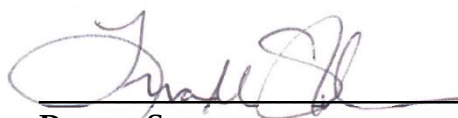
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Office of Income Maintenance
Lisa Watson
Deputy Secretary

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

 Deputy Secretary
Deputy Secretary

16. Date of request: November 7, 2018

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

Cathy Buhrig
Director
Bureau of Policy
cbuhrig@pa.gov
717-772-7906

Tamila Lay
Director
Bureau of Employment Programs
tlay@pa.gov
717-787-8307

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