

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150035
2. **Type of request:** Modification 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:** Rhode Island
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 Rhode Island is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 13 cities and towns.
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 Rhode Island seeks a waiver for an eligible region of 11 non-contiguous cities and towns in the Providence-Warwick New England City and Town Area (NECTA) based on the region having an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average 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

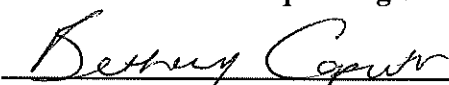
Labor Statistics.¹ The national average for this period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent. The average unemployment rate for this region was 5.5 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017		
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA NECTA, RI part	Unemployed	Labor force
Central Falls city	12,111	203,927
Charlestown town	4,967	97,927
East Providence city	29,813	582,185
Johnston town	18,618	375,805
North Providence town	20,104	431,193
Pawtucket city	47,343	871,204
Providence city	119,376	2,074,900
Scituate town	6,762	147,854
Warren town	6,463	135,509
West Warwick town	19,221	384,378
Woonsocket city	29,932	458,013
Total for Region	314,710	5,762,895
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	5.5%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%	

The State of Rhode Island seeks a waiver for two towns based on their individual unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of January 2016 through December 2017. The national average for this period was 4.6 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.5 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2016 through December 2017			
Individual Towns	Unemployed	Labor force	Unemployment Rate
New Shoreham town	2,068	19,157	10.8%
Westerly town	15,005	271,387	5.5%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.5%		

¹ A map of the Labor Market Area is available from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/maps/necta.htm>. The full listing of Labor Market Areas is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lmadir2015.xlsx>.

- 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 4/26/19, represent 70% 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 September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.
- 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: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Bethany Caputo, SNAP Administrator**
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Title: RI DHS SNAP Administrator
Email for transmission of response: Bethany.caputo@dhs.ri.gov
- 16. Date of request: 5/3/2019**
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Bethany Caputo**
401-415-8432
Bethany.caputo@dhs.ri.gov
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**