

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

- 1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 990047
- 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:** South Dakota
- 6. Region:** MPRO

7. Regulatory requirements:

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not 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 SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the 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.

8. Description of alternative procedures:

The State of South Dakota is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 23 counties and 8 reservations 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. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii) also specifies that states can request a waiver for areas that can show "low and declining employment-to-population ratios" as evidence of insufficient jobs.

The State of South Dakota seeks a waiver for a region of 23 contiguous counties based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of June 2016 through May 2018. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.3 percent. The unemployment rate for this region was 5.3 percent for the same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data June 2016 through May 2018		
County	Total Unemployed	Total Labor Force
Bennett County	1,179	26,948
Brule County	1,692	59,034
Buffalo County	1,368	17,218
Campbell County	681	20,038
Corson County	1,451	34,193
Custer County	4,109	96,556
Dewey County	5,262	53,650
Fall River County	3,005	71,940
Gregory County	1,655	49,042
Hyde County	514	16,622
Jackson County	1,682	31,561
Jerauld County	665	26,670
Jones County	384	13,473
Lyman County	2,046	41,988
McPherson County	933	25,348
Mellette County	889	18,293
Oglala Lakota County	10,072	86,747
Potter County	913	27,471
Stanley County	1,369	44,717
Sully County	591	20,358
Todd County	5,017	75,431
Walworth County	2,725	53,775
Ziebach County	1,148	23,099
Total for Region	49,350	934,172
Combined Region Unemployment Rate	5.3%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.3%	

The State requests to waive the following reservations based on having average unemployment rates exceeding the national average for a recent 24-month period. The reservation unemployment rates were calculated by applying 2016 American

Community Survey¹ share ratios to county-level BLS data from June 2016 – May 2018. The following table summarizes the calculations:

American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics Data June 2016 through May 2018			
Reservations	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Dewey County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	5,262	53,500	9.8%
Haakon County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	-	-
Meade County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	-	-
Stanley County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	-	-
Sully County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	-	-
Ziebach County (part); South Dakota (part); Cheyenne River Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD	1,148	23,099	5.0%
Total Cheyenne River Reservation	6,410	76,599	8.4%
Buffalo County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	1,368	15,451	8.9%
Hughes County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	768	1,926	39.9%
Hyde County (part); South Dakota (part); Crow Creek Reservation, SD	-	439	-
Total Crow Creek Reservation	2,136	17,816	12.0%
Moody County (part); South Dakota (part); Flandreau Reservation, SD	306	3,824	8.0%
Total Flandreau Reservation	306	3,824	8.0%
Codington County (part); South Dakota (part); Lake Traverse Reservation and Off- Reservation Trust Land, SD--ND	377	5,107	7.4%

¹ These calculations are based on data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Day County (part); South Dakota (part); Lake Traverse Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD--ND	665	6,553	10.1%
Grant County (part); South Dakota (part); Lake Traverse Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD--ND	61	3,694	1.6%
Marshall County (part); South Dakota (part); Lake Traverse Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD--ND	1,957	17,113	11.4%
Roberts County (part); South Dakota (part); Lake Traverse Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD--ND	5,246	92,129	5.7%
Total Lake Traverse Reservation	8,306	124,596	6.7%
Lyman County (part); South Dakota (part); Lower Brule Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	1,574	12,601	12.5%
Stanley County (part); South Dakota (part); Lower Brule Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	128	-
Total Lower Brule Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	1,574	12,601	12.5%
Bennett County; South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	1,179	26,948	4.4%
Jackson County (part); South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	1,305	15,598	8.4%
Oglala Lakota County; South Dakota (part); Pine Ridge Reservation, SD--NE	10,072	86,747	11.6%
Total Pine Ridge Reservation	12,556	129,293	9.7%
Gregory County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	186	0.0%
Lyman County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	-	-	#DIV/0!
Mellette County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	565	4,892	11.5%
Todd County; South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	5,017	75,431	6.7%

Tripp County (part); South Dakota (part); Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, SD	699	3,882	18.0%
Total Rosebud Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land	6,281	84,391	7.4%

The State is requesting to waive individuals in Yankton Reservation based on having a low and declining employment to population ratio. This ratio was calculated by dividing the estimated employed population over the estimated population age 16+. The employed population was estimated by applying shares from the 2012-2016 5-year ACS to county-level annual employment averages from the BLS. The estimated population for the reservations was calculated by applying reservation county shares for the population ages 16 and up from the 2012-2016 5-year ACS to annual county population estimates for the population 16 and up from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Yankton Reservation had an employment to population ratio that declined continuously between 2014 and 2017, while that of the U.S. increased slightly. Its ratio was lower than that of South Dakota each year between 2014 and 2017.² Its ratio is also at least 1 percentage point lower than that of the U.S. in 2017, the most recent year for which full employment data is available. The reservation's estimated unemployment rate for the 24-month period of June 2016 through May 2018 was 5.1 percent, at least 10 percent above the national average for the same period.

<u>Areas in South Dakota that are Eligible for a Waiver Based on Having a Low and Declining Employment-Population Ratio from 2014 to 2017</u>					
	Annual Average Employment-Population Ratios				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Percentage Point Difference, 2014 to 2017
United States	59.0%	59.3%	59.7%	60.1%	1.1%
South Dakota	67.0%	67.2%	67.1%	66.7%	-0.3%
Yankton Reservation	53.2%	52.8%	51.0%	50.3%	-2.9%

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.

² The ratios for the South Dakota and the U.S. were both computed using the same method—dividing annual employment figures from the BLS by annual population estimates of the population ages 16 and up from the Census Bureau's population estimates.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of **06/30/18**, represents **28.9%** 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.

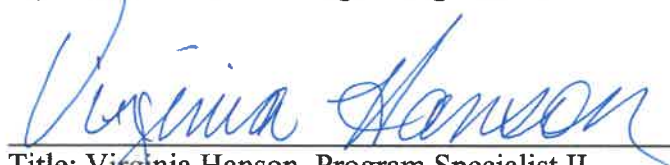
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

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

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

State of South Dakota, Department of Social Services
Virginia Hanson, Program Specialist II

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Virginia Hanson, Program Specialist II

Email for transmission of response: Virginia.hanson@state.sd.us

16. Date of request: 07-17-18

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

Virginia Hanson; Virginia.Hanson@state.sd.us; (605)773-4719

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