

## **STATE WAIVER REQUEST**

- 1. Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150020
- 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:** Connecticut
- 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 Connecticut is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 108 towns and cities 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 State of Connecticut seeks a waiver for a region of 110 contiguous cities and towns based on the region's combined average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of March 2016 through February 2018. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.1 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.9 percent. The region's average unemployment rate for this period is 4.9 percent.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data  
March 2016 through February 2018**

| <b>Cities/Towns</b>  | <b>Total Unemployed</b> | <b>Total Labor Force</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Andover town         | 1,666                   | 46,696                   |
| Ansonia city/town    | 13,625                  | 222,985                  |
| Ashford town         | 2,580                   | 61,899                   |
| Barkhamsted town     | 2,394                   | 55,701                   |
| Beacon Falls town    | 3,427                   | 84,499                   |
| Bethany town         | 2,691                   | 74,866                   |
| Bethlehem town       | 2,074                   | 47,114                   |
| Bloomfield town      | 13,559                  | 285,794                  |
| Bozrah town          | 1,409                   | 34,775                   |
| Branford town        | 15,137                  | 386,380                  |
| Bridgeport city/town | 108,046                 | 1,671,570                |
| Bridgewater town     | 708                     | 20,062                   |
| Bristol city/town    | 38,989                  | 795,221                  |
| Brooklyn town        | 4,325                   | 98,710                   |
| Canterbury town      | 2,951                   | 69,896                   |
| Chaplin town         | 1,460                   | 30,114                   |
| Clinton town         | 6,446                   | 174,404                  |
| Colchester town      | 8,136                   | 226,787                  |
| Colebrook town       | 1,018                   | 19,918                   |
| Columbia town        | 2,799                   | 77,964                   |
| Coventry town        | 6,778                   | 188,425                  |
| Cromwell town        | 7,363                   | 191,679                  |
| Derby city/town      | 8,979                   | 161,872                  |
| East Haddam town     | 4,843                   | 120,862                  |
| East Hampton town    | 6,669                   | 186,204                  |
| East Hartford town   | 35,964                  | 655,270                  |
| East Haven town      | 18,352                  | 379,275                  |
| East Lyme town       | 8,388                   | 208,576                  |
| East Windsor town    | 7,414                   | 158,080                  |
| Eastford town        | 931                     | 23,226                   |
| Ellington town       | 8,526                   | 227,406                  |
| Enfield town         | 24,317                  | 560,841                  |
| Franklin town        | 877                     | 25,738                   |
| Goshen town          | 1,293                   | 39,488                   |
| Griswold town        | 7,438                   | 152,082                  |
| Groton town          | 16,635                  | 443,416                  |
| Hamden town          | 34,558                  | 850,232                  |
| Hampton town         | 1,077                   | 24,890                   |
| Hartford city/town   | 97,274                  | 1,280,926                |
| Hartland town        | 1,009                   | 27,578                   |

|                                  |        |           |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Harwinton town                   | 2,794  | 77,307    |
| Kent town                        | 1,260  | 36,174    |
| Killingly town                   | 11,196 | 230,318   |
| Lebanon town                     | 4,161  | 98,119    |
| Ledyard town                     | 6,838  | 192,359   |
| Lisbon town                      | 2,576  | 56,790    |
| Manchester town                  | 34,342 | 793,614   |
| Mansfield town                   | 12,073 | 304,007   |
| Meriden city/town                | 40,000 | 770,697   |
| Middlebury town                  | 3,622  | 94,935    |
| Middlefield town                 | 2,102  | 60,286    |
| Middletown city/town             | 27,053 | 628,626   |
| Milford (consolidated) city/town | 29,318 | 729,346   |
| Monroe town                      | 10,155 | 242,662   |
| Montville town                   | 9,838  | 225,318   |
| Morris town                      | 1,211  | 34,275    |
| Naugatuck borough/town           | 21,082 | 417,279   |
| New Britain city/town            | 52,883 | 881,988   |
| New Fairfield town               | 6,325  | 171,237   |
| New Hartford town                | 3,440  | 95,816    |
| New Haven city/town              | 86,000 | 1,554,429 |
| New London city/town             | 17,213 | 290,915   |
| New Milford town                 | 13,981 | 364,257   |
| Newington town                   | 16,054 | 417,290   |
| Norfolk town                     | 782    | 21,755    |
| North Canaan town                | 1,532  | 42,383    |
| North Haven town                 | 12,240 | 321,629   |
| North Stonington town            | 2,563  | 70,862    |
| Norwich city/town                | 23,311 | 487,972   |
| Old Lyme town                    | 3,424  | 90,665    |
| Old Saybrook town                | 4,553  | 122,339   |
| Oxford town                      | 6,524  | 172,160   |
| Plainfield town                  | 10,520 | 207,830   |
| Plainville town                  | 11,346 | 253,218   |
| Plymouth town                    | 7,875  | 159,796   |
| Portland town                    | 5,209  | 132,273   |
| Preston town                     | 2,602  | 58,529    |
| Prospect town                    | 5,152  | 135,919   |
| Putnam town                      | 5,847  | 116,067   |
| Salem town                       | 2,079  | 51,506    |
| Scotland town                    | 1,014  | 23,150    |
| Seymour town                     | 9,809  | 215,577   |
| Shelton city/town                | 23,476 | 531,537   |

|                                                 |                  |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Somers town                                     | 4,752            | 123,858           |
| Southbury town                                  | 8,676            | 208,446           |
| Southington town                                | 22,250           | 592,605           |
| Sprague town                                    | 1,913            | 38,974            |
| Stafford town                                   | 7,375            | 166,309           |
| Sterling town                                   | 2,608            | 48,517            |
| Stratford town                                  | 33,530           | 656,087           |
| Thomaston town                                  | 4,444            | 113,828           |
| Thompson town                                   | 5,463            | 126,081           |
| Torrington city/town                            | 23,312           | 459,374           |
| Union town                                      | 347              | 11,139            |
| Vernon town                                     | 17,480           | 417,683           |
| Voluntown town                                  | 1,537            | 35,773            |
| Wallingford town                                | 24,164           | 631,055           |
| Warren town                                     | 723              | 19,195            |
| Waterbury city/town                             | 85,383           | 1,219,851         |
| Waterford town                                  | 9,510            | 244,122           |
| Watertown town                                  | 12,179           | 311,879           |
| West Haven city/town                            | 36,933           | 723,764           |
| Westbrook town                                  | 3,326            | 88,076            |
| Wethersfield town                               | 13,624           | 338,659           |
| Winchester town                                 | 6,982            | 146,749           |
| Windham town                                    | 16,696           | 297,811           |
| Windsor Locks town                              | 8,162            | 179,479           |
| Windsor town                                    | 17,694           | 400,363           |
| Wolcott town                                    | 9,558            | 239,033           |
| Woodstock town                                  | 4,236            | 100,196           |
| <b>Total for Region</b>                         | <b>1,470,357</b> | <b>30,313,538</b> |
| <b>Combined Region<br/>Unemployment Rate</b>    | <b>4.9%</b>      |                   |
| <b>20% Above National Average<br/>Threshold</b> | <b>4.9%</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 2019, represent 88.93% 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, 2020 through December 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:**

Connecticut Department of Social Services  
Daniel Giacomi, SNAP Program Administration Manager  
[Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov](mailto:Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov)  
(860) 424-5080

**15. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Kathleen M. Brennan, Deputy Commissioner  
Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Connecticut Department of Social Services  
[Deidre.Gifford@ct.gov](mailto:Deidre.Gifford@ct.gov)  
for Commissioner  
Gifford

**16. Date of request: September 3, 2019**

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

Daniel Giacomi  
(860) 424-5080  
[Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov](mailto:Daniel.Giacomi@ct.gov)

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

