

## STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** 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:** District of Columbia
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 District of Columbia (District) is requesting waiver for the entire District from SNAP time limit at 7 CFR §273.24.

**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 District of Columbia seeks a waiver for the entire District based on the District having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of February 2018 through January 2020. The District's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.5 percent<sup>1</sup> and the national average was 3.8 percent.<sup>2</sup> Twenty percent above the national average for that time period was 4.5 percent, which the District's 5.5 percent rate exceeded.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment rates for the United States, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted [https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/district\\_of\\_columbia.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/district_of_columbia.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, <https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet>

| <b>Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br/>February 2018 through January 2020 (24-month totals)</b> |              |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                         | Unemployment | Labor Force |
| <b>District of Columbia</b>                                                                                             | 536,190      | 9,788,723   |
| Unemployment Rate                                                                                                       | 5.5%         |             |
| 20% Above National Average<br>Unemployment Rate<br>Threshold                                                            | 4.5%         |             |

9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations and ensure that thousands of individuals that face a lack of sufficient jobs are able to maintain SNAP benefits.
10. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire District.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The District is requesting a one-year waiver, from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
13. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Anthea Seymour  
 Administrator  
 Economic Security Administration  
 Department of Human Services  
 District of Columbia Government  
 64 NY Ave, NE, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 (202) 698-3906  
[Anthea.seymour@dc.gov](mailto:Anthea.seymour@dc.gov)

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




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Title: Administrator, Economic Security Administration, Department of Human Services,  
 District of Columbia Government  
 Email for transmission of response: [Anthea.seymour@dc.gov](mailto:Anthea.seymour@dc.gov)

15. **Date of request:**  
**March 20, 2020**

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

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Economic Security Administration  
Department of Human Services  
District of Columbia Government  
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Washington, DC 20002  
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**18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**