

**DC**DEPARTMENT *of*
HUMAN SERVICES

JUN 25 2019

Mr. Eric Ratchford
Regional Director
USDA/FNS/MARO
Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

The District of Columbia currently has a waiver to suspend time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) throughout the District through December 31, 2019. Please accept this letter as notification of the District of Columbia's request to extend the suspension of time limits for ABAWDS throughout the District through December 31, 2020. The supporting documentation and waiver application is attached.

If you have any questions, please call me on 202-698-3906.

Sincerely,


Anthea Seymour
Administrator

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 is requesting waiver for the entire District from SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
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.

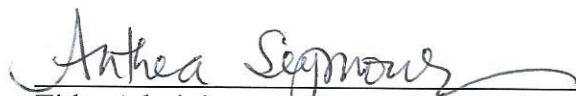
The District of Columbia seeks a waiver for the entire District based on the District having an average unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of April 2017 through March 2019. The District's average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.8 percent. The national average for this period was 4.0 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.8 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data April 2017 through March 2019		
	Unemployed	Labor force
District of Columbia	559,206	9,696,781
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	
20% Above the National Average Unemployment Rate Threshold	4.8%	

10. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** This waiver will provide consistency for state operations.
11. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** This waiver affects the entire District.
12. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:**
The District is requesting a one-year waiver, from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
13. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no quality control procedures involved.
14. **State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:**

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

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



Title: Administrator, Economic Security Administration, Department of Human Services
Email for transmission of response: Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

15. **Date of request:**
June 25, 2019

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

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
Economic Security Administration
Department of Human Services
64 NY Ave, NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 698-3906
Anthea.seymour@dc.gov

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN ABAWD TIME LIMIT WAIVER ON THE BASIS OF
APR 2017 - MAR 2019
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Step 1	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers	APR 2017 - MAR 2019	APR 2017 - MAR 2019	APR 2017 - MAR 2019	APR 2017 - MAR 2019	APR 2017 - MAR 2019
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 24-month labor force totals	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers					
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 24-month unemployed totals					
District of Columbia	9,696,791	559,189	0.05767	5.76	5.8
National Unemployment Threshold - 20% Above the National Average	3,878,387	156,381	0.04032	4.03 4.83	4.0 4.8

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/lau/, and are attached.

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Data extracted on: June 14, 2019 (7:19:20 PM)

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Series Id: LAUST11000000000003, LAUST11000000000004, LAUST11000000000005, LAUST11000000000006

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area: District of Columbia

Area Type: Statewide

State/Region/Division: District of Columbia

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Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
2017	Jan	397860(D)	373218(D)	24642(D)	6.2(D)
2017	Feb	400561(D)	375528(D)	25033(D)	6.2(D)
2017	Mar	400363(D)	376370(D)	23993(D)	6.0(D)
2017	Apr	399851(D)	377621(D)	22230(D)	5.6(D)
2017	May	399741(D)	376479(D)	23262(D)	5.8(D)
2017	Jun	404819(D)	378201(D)	26618(D)	6.6(D)
2017	Jul	408330(D)	381283(D)	27047(D)	6.6(D)
2017	Aug	400641(D)	375043(D)	25598(D)	6.4(D)
2017	Sep	400364(D)	375348(D)	25016(D)	6.2(D)
2017	Oct	401494(D)	377732(D)	23762(D)	5.9(D)
2017	Nov	402305(D)	379541(D)	22764(D)	5.7(D)
2017	Dec	401070(D)	379474(D)	21596(D)	5.4(D)
2018	Jan	402925(D)	379238(D)	23687(D)	5.9(D)
2018	Feb	406696(D)	382573(D)	24123(D)	5.9(D)
2018	Mar	406065(D)	382874(D)	23191(D)	5.7(D)
2018	Apr	405784(D)	384850(D)	20934(D)	5.2(D)
2018	May	404595(D)	383058(D)	21537(D)	5.3(D)
2018	Jun	408862(D)	384262(D)	24600(D)	6.0(D)
2018	Jul	411058(D)	386472(D)	24586(D)	6.0(D)
2018	Aug	401594(D)	378443(D)	23151(D)	5.8(D)
2018	Sep	400542(D)	378348(D)	22194(D)	5.5(D)
2018	Oct	402446(D)	381131(D)	21315(D)	5.3(D)
2018	Nov	402811(D)	382248(D)	20563(D)	5.1(D)
2018	Dec	401943(D)	382184(D)	19759(D)	4.9(D)
2019	Jan	404656	380317	24339	6.0
2019	Feb	407959	383439	24520	6.0
2019	Mar	410240	387443	22797	5.6
2019	Apr	412711(P)	391747(P)	20964(P)	5.1(P)

D : Reflects revised population controls and model reestimation.

P : Preliminary.

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Data extracted on: June 14, 2019 (7:18:01 PM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level

Labor force status: Civilian labor force

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

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Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	158676(1)	159482	159912	159817	159979	161337	161911	160863	161049	160465	160466	159880
2018	160037(1)	161494	161548	161280	161765	163277	163734	161909	161958	162723	162665	162510
2019	162104(1)	162793	162823	162097	162655							

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level

Labor force status: Unemployed

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

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Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	8149	7887	7284	6555	6572	7250	7441	7287	6556	6242	6286	6278
2018	7189	7091	6671	5932	5756	6812	6730	6370	5766	5771	5650	6029
2019	7140	6625	6382	5387	5503							

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