

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150013
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:** Illinois
6. **Region:** MWRO
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 Illinois is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in 63 counties 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 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 Illinois seeks a waiver for a region of 63 contiguous counties based on the region's aggregate average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of January 2017 through December 2018. The national average unemployment rate for this period was 4.1 percent; 20 percent above this was 4.9 percent. The region's aggregate average unemployment rate for this period was 4.9 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data January 2017 through December 2018		
Contiguous Counties	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total
Alexander County	4,190	51,418
Boone County	39,530	632,294
Bureau County	20,782	417,416
Calhoun County	3,049	56,124
Christian County	18,932	356,423
Clark County	9,478	187,828
Clay County	8,506	159,090
Coles County	27,974	584,952
Cook County	2,864,360	63,002,721
Crawford County	11,250	211,302
De Witt County	9,012	182,856
DeKalb County	60,088	1,323,078
Edgar County	10,753	223,874
Edwards County	3,103	67,528
Fayette County	12,709	233,895
Ford County	7,433	152,422
Franklin County	25,599	403,305
Fulton County	23,412	368,569
Gallatin County	3,411	58,816
Greene County	7,252	144,407
Grundy County	31,750	609,676
Hancock County	10,114	203,864
Hardin County	2,533	32,359
Henderson County	4,468	87,754
Henry County	30,614	600,861
Jasper County	5,466	109,257
Jefferson County	22,871	421,847
Jersey County	12,837	263,508
Johnson County	7,579	98,613
Kane County	319,727	6,517,545
Kankakee County	72,829	1,335,924
Knox County	28,374	536,435
LaSalle County	77,347	1,349,052
Lawrence County	8,685	144,568
Macon County	66,934	1,192,712
Macoupin County	27,216	552,544

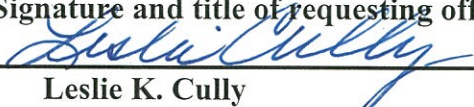
Marion County	21,804	425,538
Marshall County	7,005	131,682
Mason County	9,278	152,939
Massac County	9,435	139,164
McDonough County	16,462	322,619
Mercer County	10,145	194,032
Montgomery County	16,762	286,301
Ogle County	31,076	608,372
Peoria County	119,555	2,084,415
Perry County	12,173	202,313
Pike County	8,160	174,537
Pope County	2,642	42,363
Pulaski County	4,068	50,156
Putnam County	3,706	72,534
Richland County	8,584	180,049
Rock Island County	89,307	1,716,696
Saline County	15,375	235,821
Schuyler County	3,623	80,027
Scott County	3,151	59,328
St. Clair County	154,349	3,042,965
Stark County	3,936	61,896
Tazewell County	80,270	1,561,374
Union County	11,495	177,400
Vermilion County	51,600	813,175
Wayne County	9,833	166,817
Williamson County	39,566	764,258
Winnebago County	205,893	3,366,371
Combined Area Total	4,849,420	99,987,979
Combined Area Unemployment Rate	4.9%	
20% Above National Average Threshold	4.9%	

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.

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

The caseload for these areas, as of **August 2019**, represent 74.7% 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:** Leslie K. Cully, Illinois SNAP Director
- 15. Signature and title of requesting official:**


Leslie K. Cully
Title: Illinois SNAP Director
Email for transmission of response: leslie.k.cully@illinois.gov
- 16. Date of request:** 10/11/2019
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** Terri Vaniter
terri.vaniter@illinois.gov 217/782-1239
- 18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**