

February 25, 2020

Ms. Julie Mikkelson
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Midwest Region
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Mikkelson:

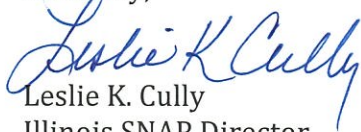
Illinois is requesting a waiver under Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity and Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This waiver request is to exempt Illinois residents in 10 Labor Market Areas (LMAs) from SNAP time limits of 7 CFR 273.24 as amended by the Food and Nutrition Service's Final Rule (84 FR 66782), to be effective April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

We believe Illinois qualifies for a waiver for the 10 Labor Market Areas based on each Labor Market Area having an average unemployment rate at least 6 percent and at least 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of July 2017 through June 2019. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 3.9 percent, 20 percent above this was 4.7 percent.

We are not seeking a waiver for the remaining Labor Market Areas (LMAs) due to the unemployment rate being below the national average unemployment rate and above 6 percent.

Attached please find documentation to support our request. If you have questions, please contact me. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Leslie K. Cully
Illinois SNAP Director
IDHS Family & Community Services

Cc: Terri Vaniter, Bureau of Policy Development