

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150013
2. **Type of request:** Amendment
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24 as amended by the Food and Nutrition Service's Final Rule "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents," published on December 5, 2019 (84 FR 66782).
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 10 Labor Market Areas (LMAs) from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24 as amended by the Food and Nutrition Service's Final Rule (84 FR 66782).
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, but in no case may the 24-month average unemployment rate of the requested area be less than 6 percent. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(4) provides that a Labor Market Area (LMA), the intrastate part of an interstate LMA, a reservation area, or a U.S. Territory are considered to be areas for the purposes of waivers.

The State of Illinois seeks a waiver for 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. The 10 Labor Market Areas were reviewed with the Labor Market Areas published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and is compliant with the LMA designations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data July 2017 through June 2019			
Labor Market Areas	Unemployed Total	Labor Force Total	Unemployment Rate
Canton, IL Micropolitan Statistical Area	22,936	365,335	6.3
Danville, IL Metropolitan Statistical Area	49,253	806,424	6.1
Franklin County, IL	24,898	407,278	6.1
Hardin County, IL	2,475	32,217	7.7
Johnson County, IL	7,452	98,294	7.6
Mason County, IL	9,169	152,074	6.0
Pope County, IL	2,566	42,092	6.1
Pulaski County, IL	3,949	50,167	7.9
Saline County, IL	15,026	236,169	6.4
Union County, IL	11,417	177,995	6.4

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where there are not a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for able-bodied adults without dependents.

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

The caseload for these areas, as of December 2019, represent 2.64% 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 April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

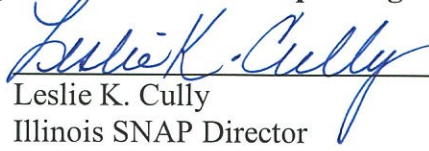
13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Department of Human Services, Terri Vaniter

15. Signature and title of requesting official:



Leslie K. Cully

Illinois SNAP Director

Email for transmission of response: leslie.k.cully@illinois.gov

16. Date of request: 02/24/2020

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*):