

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Extension
2. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Maryland
5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic Region
6. **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.
7. **Description of alternative procedures:**

The State of Maryland is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in all counties from the SNAP work requirements. Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to ensuring that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients continue to receive their benefits. We are submitting this request in order to simplify SNAP eligibility process and reduce administrative burden so that our limited resources can be focused on processing applications and provide ongoing SNAP benefits to eligible customers.
8. **Justification for request:**

Under the current SNAP regulations, SNAP recipients who are ABAWDs must participate in an approved work activity for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Under a current ABAWD waiver, which expires on March 31, 2020, 11 jurisdictions are exempt from ABAWD policy implementation. The state had been preparing to implement the policy statewide effective April 1, 2020.
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** In light of the current state of emergency, the state is unable to continue activities it had started to

prepare staff to implement ABAWD policy statewide because we had to commit all resources to making sure that the state is able to issue benefits. Waiving ABAWD work requirements will ensure that customers are not adversely impacted.

10. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** There are approximately 39,000 ABAWDs in Maryland. Waiving the requirement during the state of emergency will ensure that Maryland's payment error rate is not unfairly impacted by an event beyond the state's control.
11. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** This waiver request will be effective April 1, 2020 until March 31, 2021.
12. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

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



Netsanet Kibret
Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Maryland Department of Human Services

14. **Date of request:** March 17, 2020

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